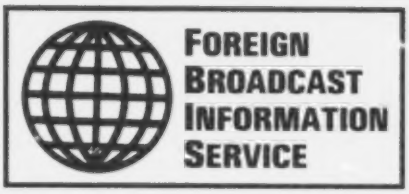

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Latin America

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Cuba

Program on Angolan Fighting, Situation

FL1407120088 Havana Television Cubana Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 14-16 Jul 88

[FAR-produced program, broadcast in three parts: "Response to the South African Escalation"; some speakers unidentified, others identified by caption—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Narrator] Angola, 1987. Troops attached to the Southwest Africa Command have carried out large- and medium-sized operations in Cunene and Cuando Cubango Provinces in southern Angola. [video shows tanks, map of Angola for tracking troop movement] From 1974 to the present, there have been more than 10 big operations. At the same time, South Africa trains and completely supplies the puppet bands of UNITA [National Union for the Total Independence of Angola], which basically operate in these areas of southern Angola. The two jointly unleashed (?a series) of attacks recently against the People's Republic of Angola. [video shows men carrying guns in fields] Angolan and Cuban forces, as well as detachments of the SWAPO [South-West African People's Organization], acted and are still acting in unison in accordance with events.

Here is Pieter Botha. If all the colonizers that preceded him could see him today, they would surely feel pleased. The power of the whites, which they built on terror and death, found in this man broad guarantees for its development. The decision to attack the countries neighboring South Africa, Botha has publicly declared, did not come from the Defense Forces but from the government itself. Of course, most of the casualties in these racists' adventures have not been the white citizens, who are the only ones that can vote in South Africa's presidential elections. This is why Botha can speak so unconcernedly.

In Angola, for example, the Namibian territorial forces and the UNITA bands are the ones to act as the spearhead for each attack. The South African defense minister, several Cabinet members, and even President Botha himself visited war zones in Angola at the end of 1987. They went to Yamba, the so-called UNITA general headquarters, a point approximately 40 km from the border of occupied Namibia. The bandits, like good students of the racists, rendered noisy tribute to the guests.

[Begin recording of Jonas Savimbi, speaking in English] We can't decide without asking South Africa. We can't decide without asking the Americans. [end recording]

[Narrator] There is no doubt that at this time, racists and bandits thought that the defeat of the units of the FAPLA [People's Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola] defending the country's southeastern region was just a matter of days. Hence they penetrated between 250 and 300 km deep. If the enemy had achieved its initial objective—to take Cuito Cuanavale—it would have immediately advanced to the country's center and east. The security and stability of the People's Republic of Angola were seriously threatened.

The majority of the arms-producing countries joined in the sanctions the United Nations imposed on South Africa and gave assurances that they would sell no more arms to the racists. However, the racists now have their own factories. Israel went to their aid. In addition, powers such as the United States have turned over the patents of various types of arms which today are the patrimony of this caste of aggressors.

For their attack on Cuito Cuanavale, the racists have devoted large resources. Let's see how Cuba, Angola, and the SWAPO patriots have faced the situation created after 15 November 1987.

[Begin recording of man in military uniform] Since 15 November, more than 3 months ago, we have been working several hours almost daily on this. In my case, as chief of operations, I tell my comrades sometimes I am devoting more than 80 percent of my time to Angola. For me, these days of work have been a wonderful experience. The commander in chief is examining every detail very carefully. He likes to have accurate, timely information. He likes to draw his own conclusions. He thinks a great deal about each situation, no matter how minor, trying to reach the main conclusion, trying to have his decision ready once he examines, asks the comrades for their views. That way the decision will be totally effective.

In other words, he tries at all times to be successful in our missions without suffering casualties, or at least only minimal casualties if necessary. He was telling us yesterday that if we had six-sided dice, whatever side came up would be a certain victory. In other words, all sides would read certain victory. [end recording] [video shows men in uniform, including Fidel Castro, in a small briefing room with maps on walls]

[Narrator] In line with circumstances, each command cadre or expert assumed his appointed place without delay in accordance with the decisions taken.

[Begin recording of Fidel Castro, speaking while looking at papers on table] When we maneuver, we have to use heavy antiaircraft fire. [end recording]

[Narrator] Following the request of the Government of the People's Republic of Angola, Fidel's first decision was to reinforce the Cuban military contingent with the necessary forces and means. To this effect, a number of experienced chiefs, officers, and pilots were designated to join the reinforcements. [Words indistinct] Arnaldo Ochoa, Leopoldo Cintra Frias were among the first to leave, by virtue of the request made by the PCC, and the commander in chief in particular. [video shows antiaircraft artillery being moved on a truck, with men riding atop the vehicle]

In November, a very important maneuver was being organized in Cuba. Among other results, [words indistinct] test the combat readiness of a big group of units. It can be said that the principal forces of the country were participating in this activity. The movement of technical means and men who were practically beginning their training required special efforts to achieve good organization and an efficient deployment. In the middle of preparing this maneuver, which had been planned in advance by the PCC leaders and the FAR command, it was decided to reinforce the Cuban military contingent in Angola. [video shows convoy led by motorcycles, men working on trucks, and tanks being driven up ramps]

It was necessary to reroute part of the equipment to be used in the exercise and send it to the new mission. The response of the chiefs, officers, sergeants, and soldiers in these units was truly exemplary. Some groups practically left from the maneuvers field for their new destination. [video shows briefing room with pictures of Fidel and Raul Castro on walls, men in uniform talking] What had thus far been only an exercise, purely fictional, suddenly became absolute reality. A real clash with the enemy could take place now. In view of this responsibility, each individual resorted to his mental and physical resources. Everyone wanted his own contribution to be satisfactory. [video shows tanks rolling off trucks]

[Begin recording] [First speaker] What is your rank?

[Second speaker] Squadron leader.

[First speaker] Are you a party member?

[Second speaker] Yes.

[First speaker] As you can see, the technical means, the personnel, are being moved. All of this is because the FAR is preparing a maneuver in honor of the 31st anniversary of the "Granma" landing. This maneuver will be directed by the FAR Ministry and real ammunition will be used. There is the possibility that after this activity we might have to carry out a mission assigned by the High Command. We would like to know if you are available and if you have a family or personal problem or a problem of any other kind that might make it difficult for you to fulfill any activity or mission assigned.

[Third speaker] Well, first of all, I have no family problems. My situation is normal. I am ready to carry out a mission in our country or any brother country. The revolution can depend on me completely.

[First speaker] If the High Command asks us to fulfill an internationalist mission, are you ready to accept?

[Fourth speaker] Yes, I am.

[First speaker] Do you have any family or personal problem that might make it impossible for you to carry out this mission?

[Fourth speaker] No, none.

[Fifth speaker] I would be ready to participate, because many have gone over there and become internationalists. I can be an internationalist, too.

[First speaker] Do you have any family or personal problem that might make this participation in a mission difficult?

[Fifth speaker] No, none.

[First speaker] Has anyone in your family taken part in an internationalist mission?

[Fifth speaker] No, no one.

[First speaker] So you are going to have the honor of being the first.

[Fifth speaker] Yes, the first.

[Text] [Sixth speaker] I believe we military are prepared to fulfill the mission. One of the main roles of the troops is to train to be ready at any time. [end recording] [video shows convoy in the dark]

[Begin recording] [Man in white uniform] We want to tell the comrade minister of the FAR that since we received the mission to participate in the 31st "Granma" anniversary maneuver, the crew and the political and mass organizations on board undertook the task of preparing the ship to make it as ready as possible. Our ship will not be stopped. Our ship will arrive on schedule.

[Raul Castro] I moved up my arrival, my landing here, 1 hour, because I wanted to address brief remarks to you keeping in mind that this great unit you belong to was the first division formed in the FAR more than 25 years ago. I was watching the Il-62 that will take you to your destination. [Words indistinct] Leopoldo Cintra, dressed in civilian clothes, was in it. He fought [words indistinct] in the war in Ethiopia in 1978. He then [words indistinct] and subsequently spent 4 years, 5 months, and 28 days as chief of the Cuban military mission in Angola. He's been back a year. I think that it is an honor for him to go with this group of young people. Likewise, it is an honor for you to go with one of our most brilliant, valuable, heroic, and modest generals, although he doesn't like to hear himself praised. He is also going with you as a volunteer despite so many years in missions abroad and in wars helping other brother countries. He hasn't even watched his two sons grow up.

Only by being strong in the face of the kind of escalation carried out by the South African racists and their UNITA puppets—only by being strong, I repeat—can we avoid further complications. We are quite strong in this kind of fight against the bandits we have to face. Firmness, along with serenity and wisdom, have always produced good results. The Angolan war ended in March

1976. We had 35,000 men concentrated there then, as well as a good number and amount of tanks and artillery, although we had no air force. When we pushed, when we were ready for a final battle, the enemy ran off. This means that by acting with determination, by acting serenely, wisely, and, above all, firmly, we won the last battle that time without firing a single shot.

It is the same now. They are stronger and so are we. You are going there not only to help Angola or to help Namibia, occupied by the racists, become independent; you are also going to reinforce other troops to make them more secure. You are also [words indistinct] if necessary, for the lives of our people who are not threatened. As I told you, we are stronger than ever. We are strong in the number of young people. We are determined to send over there all the resources necessary to ensure that our needs are met 100 percent. We are going there believing, also 100 percent, that we are going to clash with the South Africans. In other words, the determination to send whatever is necessary to satisfy our needs 100 percent, even if we (?lose some skin), and to act, also 100 percent, as if we are certain to clash. At the same time, and it might sound like a paradox, this is the only thing that can prevent a clash.

I want to tell you that there's a deputy of mine over there, Division General Ochoa, who also led our troops in the Ethiopian war in 1978. He spent many years there, and also many years as adviser to our Nicaraguan brothers. He was sent as a reinforcement. Division General Polo [short for Leopoldo] Cintra is going for the same reason; because he is one of the most experienced comrades, not only in general terms, but specifically on Angola. He has performed three internationalist missions and is now on his fourth. He began as an adolescent with Fidel's troops on the Sierra Maestra in 1957.

I also want to stress that many comrades who only have 2 or 3 months, or perhaps even only 1 month, of service left have said they do not want to stay here. They want to go to Angola. I don't know if anyone here is not going absolutely of his own free will. Can anyone raise his hand? All right, those who are going of their own free will, raise your hands. Put your hands down. There's no one. Is there anyone here otherwise? Is there anyone who is having second thoughts? You will be leaving in the plane in a few moments, but you still have the right to refuse.

With boys like you, there is no lost cause. We will take care of you. We are taking care of those who are over there. That's why we are sending reinforcements. When you see the rest of Unit No 1973 and all Cuban comrades, military or civilian, in Angola, tell them that the love and admiration of 10 million Cubans are with you. [end recording]

[Narrator] From the moment the first attacks took place, a small group of Cuban advisers and special troops went to Cuito Cuanavale. Their chief was Colonel Alvaro Lopez Miera. [video shows helicopters, troops arriving] For its part, the enemy did not cease its harassment tactics. It was basically using artillery and the air force. Here are the targets the South African guns were pointing at, the targets the South Africans wanted to turn into ruins. [video shows empty houses with thatched roofs; sound of artillery fire] It was necessary to evacuate the entire population.

There was not a single spot under his responsibility that Col Lopez Miera did not visit, study, and memorize. Col Lopez Miera is a veteran of the fighting in Angola in 1975 and in Ethiopia in 1978.

[Begin recording of speaker] There are antiaircraft artillery and communications representatives, advance men, all sorts of specialists, with the aim of working together with you—not to give advice—shoulder to shoulder. We will try together to strengthen the defense here because Cuito cannot be taken. You have managed to stop the South Africans here; they have been unable to take Cuito. [end recording]

[Narrator] The Angolan spring caused some destruction and created difficulties that had to be quickly overcome with as much determination as the enemy had. If the waters managed to overcome the resistance of this bridge, the situation for the defenders of the position would be even more difficult. The chief of the advisers also worried about these obstacles and personally undertook reconnaissance of the area. What could be a peaceful place sometimes assumed the look of something that only Dante could conceive of and describe. On 13 January 1988, South African forces, Namibian territorial troops, and UNITA forces using tanks and armored carriers tried to break down Cuito Cuanavale's defenses. [video shows men jumping out of helicopters, men shooting weapons, tanks, airplanes; sound of gunfire]

The large-scale attack took place against the FAPLA units defending the area east of the Cuito River. The racist air force supported the operation with special forces. The FAPLA and Cuban artillery fired more than 1,200 projectiles, while the air force completed 49 missions. [video shows artillery fire, fighter planes, Cuito Cuanavale map with battle sites marked] In these attacks, the South African enemy and its puppets had to pay dearly for their adventure. [stills of wounded men, shots of aerial fighting; scene then shifts to briefing room, with men talking and looking over maps]

[Begin recording of pilot] Comrades, we have received the mission to strike the area where cannons Y-5 and Y-6 are located. [man points to map] These are found on azimuth 147, distance 135. [end recording] [video shows man getting into fighter plane, taking off]

[Begin recording of man in camouflage] [video shows the speaker and several other men leaning against an airplane] Each pilot has his own story. Sometimes we sit at our command post and write down each person's account. We can see how the events unfold. We live each

person's story. We see the heroism with which our pilots have completed the mission. We see the tenacity and bravery with which they have completed their missions despite meterological conditions at high altitudes which create critical situations, emergencies. There have been several critical, emergency situations, such as lack of fuel and damage to airplanes. They have shown [words indistinct] and confidence in the technology they use. Fighting at high levels [words indistinct].

The pilots locate the enemy's tanks and bomb them, set them on fire. We can hear it over the radio. We watch them from a distance of 10 or 12 km. We see how the enemy flies and goes up in flames. They skim past our planes in combat We say goodbye to the enemy plane, drop bombs on the craft, and destroy it. It's very impressive. The pilots don't think about it. These are just things that happen there. This is routine to them. They live this every day; it's normal to them but, in reality, they're labor heroes in aviation work. [end recording]

[Begin man in camouflage recording] [video shows speaker surrounded by men dressed in camouflage holding white helmets] I don't want to underrate the outstanding work, very outstanding work, of the comrade navigators. It's true that they aren't in the plane; they guide the plane. They take the plane to its objective. Even during complicated meterological conditions, when the pilots can't directly see their targets because they are turned off or covered by clouds, the role of the navigator was, has been, and will be very important. When the pilots hear the navigator's voice during a mission, they feel that the comrade is beside them. They get the feeling that the navigator is with them in the cockpit even though they're talking and they know that the distance is very great. They get the impression that the navigator is with them.

When one thinks of the weapons he carries, he also has this same feeling. He feels that the weapons specialist is in the cockpit with him. His weapons represent him.

The mechanics, the specialists who prepare the plane, also are in the cockpit, in the pilot's thoughts, in his feelings. [end recording]

[Begin first pilot recording] I fulfilled a mission at very low altitude in search of enemy troops. Arriving in Cuito Cuanavale and [words indistinct] we came up against a group of tanks that were traveling east of Cuito Cuanavale. At that moment, the co-pilot [el numero] warned me that the enemy was going to shoot a missile at me. The missile exploded below and to the left of me, a little behind me. I could feel it in the plane and I realized that the plane was hit. The co-pilot also became aware of this. We continued flying at very low altitude. We distanced ourselves from the danger area, launched the [word indistinct]. The plane was damaged by the missile, causing an emergency situation. Nevertheless, we brought the plane back to (?camp) and landed with no problem.

After landing, I felt powerless because of what happened. I spoke to the chief and he gave me permission to board another plane. I flew two more missions and I bombed the same enemy that hit my plane. [end recording]

[Begin second pilot recording] I remember an air fight between a pair of MiG-23's and a pair of Mirages. The lead pilot, Comrade [words indistinct] shot down a Mirage. That was a day of celebration for us. I remember when (Lay) landed we all went to the ramp and (Lay) got out of the plane with tears in his eyes. He was crying from the emotion of the moment. We all embraced each other with joy. [end recording]

[Begin third pilot recording] Comrade (Orlando Capo) flew against three Mirages. They ambushed him and he was able to escape. He was alone. He was doing cover work. One of the Mirages came up behind him and two came from below.

It's significant that Comrade (Capo) is a (?third-class) pilot. He showed great mastery, boldness, and skill during combat. We were very happy he shot three missiles at the enemy, three close-range combat missiles. He was able to escape from them. There was no problem landing here in Mennongue.

It was a fair fight. He saw them in time and he was able to play around with them. The most significant thing is.... [changes thought] I would have liked to publish this like they publish the shooting down of planes. Three of their pilots—I imagine that they are master pilots—fought against a single Cuban pilot, a (?third class) pilot, and they were made to look ridiculous. [Words indistinct] that's what I think.

They can see that they're not special. If they enter here, they'll get the same treatment because they're not supermen or Superman. [end recording]

[Narrator] On 3 February 1988, Commander in Chief Fidel Castro sent a letter to our pilots in which he told them: Day after day, we have closely followed your heroic deeds during the past few months in the People's Republic of Angola. We have watched you fulfill difficult missions, especially those carried out in the battle of Cuito Cuanavale. [video shows Castro speaking to men in a conference room, going over maps]

More than 1,000 combat flights have been flown by our MiG-23's, MiG-21's, and helicopters over a period of several weeks, challenging South African aviation and enemy anti-aircraft under the most difficult weather conditions during an Angolan spring season.

Our forces in Angola have never been so strong, well-trained, and invincible. This will make it possible to attain a political, just, and reasonable solution to the

conflicts in southern Africa. We are not pursuing military victories or glories with our enormous efforts. Instead, we are attempting to achieve the independence of Angola and Namibia, as well as security in general for the peoples of Africa.

As Marti said, this has had to be kept silent up to now but one day history will publish in indelible print the pages written by you with unsurpassable boldness and courage that will bring pride to present and future generations of Cubans, just as our FAR combatants and chiefs are now filled with pride, as well as all of us who have [words indistinct] of your heroic deeds. In the meantime, please receive this expression of profound admiration from our party and glorious FAR and the warmest and most heartfelt recognition, as all our people will convey one day. [camera shows close-up of typewritten, double- spaced letter signed by Fidel Castro]

Three months later, a delegation of our pilots came to Cuba to participate in the 1 May ceremonies. [video shows men in civilian clothes, holding straw hats, sitting in a conference room with Castro] Along with the people, these brave combatants shared joy and satisfaction for having fulfilled projects.

[Begin recording] [Castro] We suggested that we not drop so many bombs in Cuito because our aviation is our response to their artillery. They can shoot further with their anti-aircraft guns but our planes (?could) appear at any minute [words indistinct].

[Pilot] I spoke with you once at La Cabana. [camera shows Castro speaking to pilot]

[Castro] When was that?

[Pilot] That was in 1972. Pedro Miret was there....

[Castro, interrupting] You [words indistinct] artillery?

[Pilot] Yes, I spoke with you. I made a personal request. I told you I had studied mechanical aviation in the San Julian aeronautical school. You asked me a question. [words indistinct] You asked me [laughs] what I wanted to do. I told you I wanted to be a pilot. You asked me if I wanted to be a pilot for Cuba[illegible] de Aviacion. [Castro laughs] I said, no Commander, I want to be a combat pilot. [end recording]

[Narrator] On that occasion the commander in chief spoke with them and was able to hear about their interesting experiences. [camera shows Castro using his hand to mimic a plane diving]

[Narrator] The air force that fought at the southern front received various kinds of support. It is fair to talk about construction workers. Here is an example. Thanks to the expansion, in some cases, and the construction, in others, of airports and runways, the air force has been able to broaden its influence in this war front. Several Uneca [Union of Caribbean Construction Enterprises] contingents have been mobilized through the armed forces during these months of fighting in southern Angola. They have finished paving in record time several tens of kilometers of runaway and a number of supplementary installations. Ten-hour rotating shifts are worked in these projects. Several brigades cover them day and night so that machines are not stopped except for maintenance or as a result of equipment failure. This is another no less heroic way of fighting the racist enemy.

In line with the decisions that were being taken, the commander in chief met with a group of political workers and assigned them a working mission.

[Begin Castro recording] [Video shows men in uniform taking notes in small auditorium] You know the whole story, [words indistinct] we want you to be well informed and I have tried to give you the most complete view possible. They are political and military views of our ideas and our relations. I believe it is very important that the troops and the main chiefs know as much as possible. What the troops are told has to be adapted because the troops are not always [words indistinct] a very difficult situation. Another very important thing about the troops in any war, no matter how complex, is that war does not end when regular combat is no longer carried out. The idea is for men not to surrender. The idea is that fighting has to continue after units have stopped—for example, if there is a situation in which units are dispersed. Each man has to be an army unto himself. Each man who is left isolated in a situation.... [changes thought] We should always prepare people for the worst scenario. If the command is lost, everything is lost. So each man with his rifle has to be his own army. This philosophy has to be instilled. We do not give up even when one of our units is disbanded. Now we have to work very hard. All conditions are ready. Not even a minute can be lost in military preparedness because of all these things that the political cadres have expressed. They are here in this work and I believe they are very well defined.

[Castro picks up papers and reads very fast] To inform all our personnel about the tense military situation existing in southern Angola because of the South African racists and, in accordance with this, explain the decisions and measures taken by.... [end recording]

[Narrator] [Video shows men disembarking planes, looking and pointing at maps] The work agenda and the tasks to be fulfilled by this commission in Angola were very broad. These political workers, headed by Division General Rogelio Acevedo, inquired about the current war scenario and ideas regarding various actions. The commission was informed as to how the last stage of reinforcement of the troops was being carried out and fulfilled the mission assigned by the commander in chief to speak with each one of the chiefs, officers, sergeants, and soldiers on the southern front. Everyone had to learn about the motivations, background, and purposes of the

operation being carried out in Angola. [Video shows ports, ships, map with arrows pointing to or indicating certain areas; tanks being loaded by a crane onto a ship]

[Begin recording] [Unidentified man in uniform briefing troops outdoors] In order for us to announce the gradual withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola, the following principles have to be fulfilled—this has been expressed by the Angolan and Cuban Governments.

First, all military and logistical aid from the South African and U.S. Governments to the UNITA has to cease. This is clear. We know that the UNITA is nothing without South African and U.S. support. This is the first demand we make on the treaties, on the possible negotiations that could be held.

Second, South African troops have to withdraw from Angolan territory; not only Angolan territory, but from Namibian territory.

[Unidentified speaker] We have been working throughout the entire southern Angolan territory from the beginning. Later, time permitting, perhaps we will work in the rest of the country. This work is fundamentally motivated by the situation created [points to map that has markings on it]—I am using this map we have prepared—in southern Angola as a result of South African attacks in support of the UNITA puppet troops. At the same, time there was a need to prepare ourselves to be in shape to strike a forceful blow to the enemy if it dared to develop a large-scale operation, that is, a large-scale attack on the People's Republic of Angola.

[Soldier] We, the new soldiers who compose the TCAA [Antiaircraft Rocket Troops] group want to tell Commander in Chief Fidel Castro and Raul that we will stand fast here as long as necessary and that no mercenary plane will enter here.

[Second soldier] The combatants who are here in Yamba tell Commander in Chief Fidel Castro and the people of Cuba, our relatives, comrades, and brothers, that they will not enter through Yamba and that we will always be the firmest bulwark, the firmest defense, friends and brothers of the people of Angola, and that we will always be present in any situation wherein they might need us. The enemy will not enter through here for sure.

[Third soldier] After this informational stage, which will end here in the tank brigade within the next 2 or 3 days—everybody will learn about this at the tank brigade; you are almost the last ones left—what we have to achieve with the brigade's leadership at all levels, including the tactical group and all small units, the party and the UJC [Union of Young Communists] members of the brigade, is to have them at the vanguard and make sure everything the commander said is carried out to the letter by cadres, the party, and the UJC and be able to influence the entire combatant mass through the attitude of chiefs and party and UJC members. In this way, everyone can fulfill with excellence their tasks and missions there.

[Video shows barge landing on shore; ramp is lowered and tanks are driven off the ship and onto the beach]

[Raul Castro's voice] I want you to convey to all the military and civilian Cuban comrades who are in Angola that the hearts and admiration of 10 million Cubans are with you. Fatherland or death, we will win! [end recording]

[Narrator] January 1988. The military situation in southeastern Angola is a tense one. The danger of a large-scale attack by South Africa is there. Fresh Cuban troops and equipment are arriving at various Angolan ports and airports. This is in response to a request from the Luanda government and the leaders of the MPLA [Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola]-Labor Party. From the points of disembarkment, the Cuban reinforcements continued their trip without wasting a single minute. Those who arrived in Luanda were taken to Malanje and Huambo, where some units of the southern troops were located. Other groups joined these coming from the port of Benguela. [video shows map of Angola with circled areas and arrows marking route taken by Cubans]

This increase in men and equipment made it easier to quickly form detachments in Luena Province [as heard]. Meanwhile, in Cuito Cuanavale, the South African racists persisted in their artillery harassment of the defense lines established there by FAPLA troops and 300 Cuban military advisers. At first, the enemy had been able to choose the area of combat, favorable to them, of course. The challenge was accepted because the enemy had to be stopped at all costs. However, at the same time, it was decided to strengthen our contingent and to move deep into the southwest front in the direction of the Namibian border. With the arrival of the new Cuban reinforcements and equipment, the correlation of forces on the scene of battle substantially changed. The enemy now would need many more resources in case of an attack. Air and antiaircraft superiority belonged to the joint forces of Angola, Cuba, and the SWAPO liberation movement.

In Angola, a situation arose very similar to that of 1975, when South Africa invaded the country using its better war resources. Cuba had up to 36,000 men there in keeping with the mutual agreement adopted by the two governments and parties. This time, the roads and highways extending to the south were once again covered by interminable caravans. The objective now was to reinforce our units. The march was not always easy. Various obstacles had to be surmounted. In Angola, as in the rest of the southern hemisphere, January is a month of constant rains and even big tornados. The weather conditions caused a complex situation and complex consequences for this type of activity. Rivers overflowed, bridges collapsed, roads became impassable.

This situation favored the activities of the internal enemy of the Angolan people: the bandits of the puppet UNITA. Small groups mined the access routes and roads likely to be used. It was necessary to devote a great deal of time to terrain reconnaissance. This made progress very slow. Once in a while, despite all the security measures taken, accidents occurred because of the mines. This made the line of armored cars and vehicles stop for hours. However, no matter how difficult the obstacles, no matter how unfamiliar the roads, the process of reinforcing the troops and their equipment in the south continued to take its course. [passage omitted]

In a visit to one of the detachments made up of the three forces fighting the racists, we had the opportunity to talk to Comrade Sam Nujoma, president of the SWAPO liberation movement.

[Begin Nujoma recording in English] SWAPO and its military wing, the People's Liberation Army of Namibia, PLAM, has created confidence in the masses of the Namibian people that they are themselves liberators. So, we have created [words indistinct] situation when the racists, when they move out of the town of (Toomen), or Okahandja, or Windhoek, I'm not sure whether they will return to their homes alive. So the struggle will be intensified until all the forces of fascism, colonialism, as represented in our country by the Botha regime, are wiped out and the seizure of power becomes a reality in Namibia.

We, in the liberation movement in Africa, are indeed grateful to the leadership of the PCC Central Committee, and in particular to Companero Fidel Castro, for concrete material assistance, political and diplomatic support. We wish to pay special tribute to the Cuban Armed Forces who traveled thousands and thousands of kilometers to come to Africa to assist in a practical way those of us who are still languishing in the chains of colonialism, imperialism, and foreign domination in this region of southern Africa.

Together with the Cuban comrades, we [words indistinct] say, Viva Fidel. Viva the Armed Forces of the Republic of Cuba. The struggle continues; the victory is certain. [end recording]

[Narrator] Once Cuba grouped powerful forces in its units, it found itself in a position to propose new measures to Angola and the SWAPO. It was necessary to advance toward the border with Namibia. We could expect the worst from the racist enemy. We knew it was preparing for new attacks, either on the same front as before, Cuito Cuanavale, or any other zone close to the border between Angola and the occupied Namibia.

In Cuba, the PCC and FAR leaders, headed by the commander in chief, were informed in detail of every event or situation on the scene of battle, as well as the process of reinforcing our troops. [video shows Fidel and Raul Castro in briefing room with other men in military uniform, looking over maps]

[Begin Fidel Castro recording] If we do not take deep offensive actions because of all the elements we have been considering—which range from logistics to the confounded bridge here in the middle, the possibility that there will be a strong and costly resistance here, the risk that they may group many forces in this place—what are we going to do? Are we going to be only defensive? Get there? The other option would be too defensive. The position that we would have to adopt [words indistinct] [end recording]

[Narrator] The border between Angola and Namibia covers an area of approximately 1,000 km. Meanwhile, our units closest to the border were between 250 and 300 km away. To move the old defense lines, to essentially occupy the western flank of this extensive area along the border, and to establish new units was a task that required a great effort and posed various and inevitable risks. The Angolan Government agreed to the Cuban proposal. The SWAPO fighters also supported the proposal. The decision then was not long in coming.

As you can see, in the advance toward the Namibian border, our soldiers came up to many rivers, some large, and it was not always possible to cross them. But the advance was not halted. The march might be slow, difficult, but a vehicle or armored car was never left behind. [video shows trucks driving through water, over bridge] You can see the state of some of the roads in this part of Angola. To a large extent, this situation was caused by the undeclared war the Angolan people have had to face for 12 years. South Africa is especially responsible for this disaster.

The internationalist soldier-builders of the Youth Labor Army [EJT], along with the laborers of the Uneca and the FAR's engineering troops, engaged in a vast effort to restore roads and bridges, as well as build other important military projects. There were times when the tanks and other military vehicles would have been unable to move on had not they had this kind of mechanical raft. [passage omitted]

You now will witness another big project, which today is totally finished. This is an airstrip of great value to the present and future security of the country. Thanks to this airport, Angolan and Cuban planes are closer than ever before to the first line of defense. [video shows heavy equipment on construction site]

[Begin recording] [First speaker] We are working at this time on what is the runway. We have 1,200 meters already in this layer of yellow soil. The layer of red soil goes on top. We have begun to pour it. A layer of cement is next, and then hot asphalt, 5 centimeters deep.

[Second speaker] A field inspection was conducted. On 6 March, we began [words indistinct]. We began work here on 20 March with 200 units of equipment which the commander in chief sent us from Cuba, both basic and auxiliary equipment. There are 300 comrades working

right now. We are expecting 70 more units that the commander in chief is going to send around the 25th, as well as 100 more men, who should arrive between 25 and 30 March. Six km of roads have been built, 4 to get here and 2 for access. We are trying to build an embankment [words indistinct] river. Two stone mills are going to be set up which the commander in chief will also send from Cuba. The production of these two mills will guarantee the supply of rocks we need for the asphalt.

The other critical problem is cement. The commander in chief is sending us 80,000 cement sacks right now. Another critical point is asphalt [words indistinct] the asphalt plant in Lubango, it will be solved.

[Third speaker] The real beginning of the construction of the runway was on the 1st. We should take off at this stage.

[Fourth speaker] In addition, there are three well-drilling units coming from Cuba. We are already getting in touch with [word indistinct] because they have mapped out where the water can be found. This equipment will arrive on the 25th, all of it. Either the 25th or the 28th, we will have one of our engineering corps to dig the wells.

[Fifth speaker] As you can see, an airplane could land without much problem right now. If there were an emergency, it could land here right now. This has been accomplished in a week. [end recording]

[Narrator] This airfield was built under the very noses of the racist enemy in a record time of only 2 months and 10 days. The goal was to lay 100 tons of asphalt daily for a total of 9,000 tons. On 3 June, the first Angolan and Cuban MiG-23's landed here. The promise had been kept. The South Africans were the ones most surprised when they heard the news. So much so that 2 weeks later, the racist president himself, Pieter Botha, declared before the tricameral parliament that the situation in northern Namibia was becoming very dangerous. He went so far as to describe the advance of the Angolans, Cubans, and SWAPO fighters as a reckless and, in his opinion, unnecessary action. From that moment on, many planes and antiaircraft forces have been stationed virtually on the border. What a difference if you compare the current situation with the time when the Angolans and Cubans had to fly a minimum of 250 km to be able to intercept the racist enemy in its constant raids in violation of the airspace of the People's Republic of Angola. [passage omitted]

The troops received the utmost in medical attention, even though living conditions may have been more or less difficult, depending on the circumstances of the unit. From the southern line of defense, including Cuito Cuanavale, to the military hospitals in the city, capable doctors were always available with sufficient means to save or preserve the lives of the combatants. [video shows tent with surgical equipment, patients lying in bed in a tent, troops receiving inoculations] [passage omitted]

No combatant in Angola ever went without food, medical attention, information, or recreation. [video shows men in camouflage playing instruments, dancing, singing]

[Begin recording] [Fidel Castro] Another thing. What kind of a diet does the soldier have? [Video shows Castro sitting back in a reclining chair at a table while the man speaking to him is standing, leaning on the table]

[Unidentified man in uniform] [Words indistinct]

[Castro] Yes, what do they eat?

[Man] They eat a lot of canned food, sausage, tuna, sardines called (vanderlan). There is....

[Castro, interrupting] What do they like the most?

[Man] They like meat the most, fresh meat.

[Castro] Yes, I know, fresh, but what about canned?

[Man] They like canned tuna. It's very good.

[Castro] They like tuna?

[Man] That's what they like the most.

[Castro] Do they get that from Cuba?

[Man] No, it's Angolan.

[Castro] Do they have enough?

[Man] We have tried to give priority to Cuito [Cuanavale] because of the situation there.

[Castro] Tell me something. What kinds of vitamins do they take?

[Man] I don't know.

[Castro] Wouldn't it be a good idea to send a good-sized shipment of vitamins there? They tell me that people have colds because it's humid there. Can't you send them a truck-load of vitamins?

[Man] No, there's not much humidity there in Angola because....

[Castro, interrupting] Then why do they have colds?

[Man] Sometimes it's because of the dust.

[Castro] There's a lot of dust there?

[Man] Yes. I mentioned that when it rains there [words indistinct] a column of smoke. [end recording]

[Narrator] The living conditions of the personnel, as well as the security of the troops, are concerns that were brought up at each of the many meetings held in Havana between leaders of the PCC and the FAR and the highest officers of the Cuban military internationalist contingent in Angola.

[Recording of Castro and man in uniform indistinct]

[Narrator] At the same time that it was decided to advance to the Namibian border via the western flank, reinforcements were also sent to Cuito C[illegible]navale. [video shows map of Angola with areas circled in red]

A group of men arrived here by land on 16 January to join the 300 advisers that were here since December. More reinforcements later arrived by air. [video shows men in camouflage disembarking from plane] This new contingent was headed by Colonel (Ernio Hernandez).

Despite the defeat they suffered in January, the enemy was preparing for a new and, perhaps, even larger attack. On the morning of 14 February, their artillery began a barrage of heavy fire against the positions held by FAPLA brigades No 59, 25, and 21. Cubans assigned to this line of defense were also part of these brigades.

The enemy had a special interest in destroying the bridge over the Cuito River, an objective they finally accomplished. [video shows still shots of a collapsed bridge] This isolated brigades No 59, 25, and 21 in the east. It was very difficult for them to receive supplies or reinforcements of any kind. The attack was imminent by 1300.

The strong action of a company of 8 tanks with joint Angolan-Cuban crews and the support of FAPLA infantry helped detain 150 men. This counterattack was led by Lieutenant Colonel Hector Aguilar Perez, who was injured in the mouth and knee. Once he recovered, Lt Col Aguilar Perez and three other officers who participated in these battles personally briefed Commander in Chief Fidel Castro on the events that occurred there. [video shows Castro sitting in an armchair in an office talking to men in uniform]

[Begin recording] [Unidentified man in uniform, in progress] ...locations in Namibia.

[Castro] You spread out into the woods?

[Man] I went into the woods. My idea was to arrive at the brigade's command post to surprise the [words indistinct]. My idea was to get them at their [words indistinct]. Then I....

[Castro, interrupting] The FAPLA members were still accompanying you?

[Man] The FAPLA members were still with me.

[Castro] They were riding atop the tanks?

[Man] No. No. When I separated from them in combat [words indistinct] they were on foot. I (?went) ahead of the infantry.

[Castro] And you left them?

[Man] That's what I did.

[Castro] What happened then? How did the battle begin?

[Man] The battle began with the enemy's infantry. The enemy had their infantry ahead of them. They had the tanks behind them and the infantry in front. I had the tanks ahead of me and the infantry to the rear.

When we began the battle, there was a heavy clash with the infantry, only the infantry. The tanks were not there.

[Castro] What weapons were you using?

[Man] We used a [word indistinct] explosive projectile from the tanks.

[Castro] From what distance did you shoot at them?

[Man] We were shooting at them from a short distance, about 150 meters.

[Castro] Did you use the machine guns?

[Man] Yes, a lot.

[Castro] Was your vehicle also in the woods?

[Man] Yes.

[Castro] What did (?you) shoot?

[Man] We used the 14.5 caliber and the 12.7 caliber machine guns. I realized that I made a mistake by having the infantry behind me. I ordered them to go to the front.

[Castro] All this was in the woods?

[Man] Yes, all this was in the woods.

[Castro] A very thick woods?

[Man] Yes, a very thick woods, very thick.

[Castro] Were the trees thick?

[Man] No, the trees were not obstacles. They were....

[Castro, interrupting] It was thick brushland?

[Man] Yes, that's what it was. I ordered [words indistinct]. My vehicle, my machine gun, was shooting, too. When my 14 [14.5 caliber machine gun] was exhausted, I picked up my 7 [machine gun] and vice versa.

[Castro] I imagine you caused a lot of casualties among their infantry.

[Man] We caused many casualties. I estimate that they had more than 100 casualties.

[Castro] In that shootout?

[Man] Yes.

[Castro] How long did this last from the time they hit your first tank?

[Man] The enemy's infantry destroyed my first tank, Commander, 20 minutes after the battle began.

[Castro] Twenty minutes? [words indistinct]

[Man] Yes. [words indistinct] During this entire process I kept thinking that I should move my infantry ahead. I thought about this in the middle of this battle. I called the FAPLA captain who headed the infantry and told him to move the infantry ahead.

[Excerpts] [Castro] And they went through?

[Man] Yes, they went through.

[Castro] They behaved well?

[Man] Fantastically well. I am very satisfied and very happy with the performance of the FAPLA infantry there. [Video shows tanks in woods shooting at targets; smoke can be seen and gunshots heard] This 2-hour fighting progressed as follows. First, as I said, the enemy had many rocket launchers.

[Castro] Yes.

[Man] The infantry had many rocket launchers. The infantry was able to get very close—using the bushes as cover—to the tanks despite the heavy fighting being carried out with the (?enemy) infantry. Despite this, it was able to get pretty close to the tanks. So, out of the six tanks that were later destroyed, two or three tanks were destroyed by infantry rocket launchers.

[Castro] And the other ones?

[Man] The other ones were destroyed by tanks, by enemy tanks. Of course, when the clash took place between tanks, we destroyed—as far as I could see—five of their tanks and three vehicles. According to the other comrades—because there were places I could not see due to the heavy vegetation—a total of 14 enemy vehicles, that is, some 10 tanks and 4 other vehicles, were destroyed.

[Castro] So that lasted 2 hours. Until what time did the fighting last?

[Man] Fighting continued very actively until approximately 1900.

[Castro] Until 7 at night.

[Man] Yes, it was dark, very dark. It was already dark.

[Castro] And you had one tank.

[Man] I had one tank....

[Castro, interrupting] What about your BTR [armored personnel carrier]?

[Man] No, commander. My BTR was hit four times.

[Castro] At what time?

[Man] I was hit at 1700.

[Castro] The first time.

[Man] The engine was hit. The fuel tanks caught fire. When the fuel tanks caught on fire an enemy vehicle in front began to respond to the machine gun fire over the hatchway. I told the crew not to go out. Then, I was hit a second time. I suppose the enemy thought the ones inside had been killed. After we were hit the second time, outside fire stopped and I ordered my artillery man to shoot a burst of machine gun fire with the 14.5 caliber in a circular motion, sweeping everything we had....

[Castro, interrupting] While the rear of tank was on fire.

[Man] The rear of the tank was on fire. When I gave the order, I got out. All the comrades got out without any problem, but....

[Castro, interrupting] Through the hatchway.

[Man] Five comrades got out through the hatchway. The driver and I remained. When the driver and I were about to get out, they reacted and shot again. They launched two rockets and one of them ripped off my driver's arm. It was completely severed; it was totally amputated. I helped him get out.

[Castro] Through the top?

[Man] I helped him get out through the top because I was alone with him. We were the only ones left.

[Castro] He was left without an arm.

[Man] From that point he did not have his arm.

[Castro] He was dripping blood.

[Man] Dripping blood.

[Castro] Nothing could be done at that time. All you could do was get him out.

[Man] All I could do was to get him out.

[Castro] Who stopped the bleeding?

[Man in uniform] Well, Commander, we put on a tourniquet.

[Castro] When was that? After you got out?

[Man in uniform] Yes, after we got out.

[Castro] What did you do after you got out?

[Man in uniform] At that time we got out I had five seriously wounded men. I ordered Major (Sintra) and two soldiers... [somebody corrects him and says: "Silva"] I ordered Major Silva and two soldiers to place them behind a very big tree located on a sort of hill. I ordered them to place the wounded behind there so they would be protected. The wounded were taken to that place. I was carrying four hand grenades. I took two and gave two to Maj Silva. He took all the wounded men behind the tree. When he finished taking them the enemy was able to detect this movement from one of their cars and started firing at that place. It launched cannon missiles, that is, it launched with the cannon several fragmentation missiles. The missiles hurt again some of the already wounded men and also seriously wounded the major. So the wounded were left without any protection because he was the one protecting them and he was also wounded.

When I noticed this, I told Ciro [not further identified]—I still had contact with him, he was standing at the hatchway, and from here I said: Ciro, I am going where the wounded are. I am going to protect the wounded. I am going where the wounded are. I was wounded when I went from where I was next to Ciro's tank to where the wounded men were.

[Man in white T-shirt] Our tanks and enemy tanks were burning everywhere. Explosions of the missiles inside the tanks were constant. Missiles were on fire. Tanks and missiles were exploding. In the midst of that situation I thought it was a logical thing for the enemy to carry out a final attack to wipe us out. It was a logical thing, there was no question about it. I prepared my men psychologically for that final enemy attack. I told them the enemy could attack us at any time with better forces and I didn't want the enemy to capture anyone alive. I said I would be the first one to take my own life at the critical moment.

A young man who was next to me—a medic, a very young man—I remember he told me: Lieutenant Colonel, we are not lost, don't be a pessimist because we can still get out of here alive. I answered: We hope so but we have to be prepared so that the enemy does not capture us alive. He told me: I am psychologically prepared, Lieutenant Colonel; after you I will also take my life. I am not going to be taken alive, either.

We were completely conditioned so that the enemy could not take anyone prisoner. We were totally conditioned psychologically. Nobody trembled there. This is how we kept fighting, waiting for the enemy's final assault with overwhelmingly stronger forces until approximately 1930 or 2000. Unexplainably, the enemy started to withdraw under our fire. That is, it happened the other way around. We were able to make the enemy withdraw despite the fact that we were surrounded, most of our men were wounded, and the tank was in poor shape because it had been hit by missiles three times. The enemy withdrew because of our fire and did not launch its final attack as I expected since it was the logical thing to expect in that case.

Convinced that the enemy had withdrawn but not being very confident—since UNITA troops could still remain in the place—I decided to transfer the wounded to a safer place. We practically dragged them—because it was hard for me to walk because I had wounds in my legs—to a lower place with more cover, approximately 150 meters to the left. We stayed there until the predawn hours, when the tank that was looking for wounded comrades, one of our tanks, made contact with us. That is, the comrade who was leading the tank and another comrade—I believe it was the artilleryman—came close to the place where we were. They knew we were in that area. They called us, we answered, and contact was made.

From that time on our mission was to save the wounded. We thought some of them were going to die because of the heavy bleeding. We were able to take them on foot to the tank located some 400 or 500 meters from where we were.

I decided to scout the area at 0400 in the direction of the tactical group, deep into our defense territory, in order to determine if there were enemy patrols before we went to the tank. I put myself at the head of this scouting. There was no other choice. There was no other comrade trained to fulfill that mission. I went with two soldiers. I scouted some 4 or 5 km when I realized that there was no danger, that the wounded could be moved without problems. I then gave the order for the tanks to move.

[Castro] Where are you from?

[Speaker] I'm from Santa Clara. [Stills of men in battlefield]

[Castro] Who is doing your work there, who is taking care of those tanks there?

[Speaker] Well, Ciro is there.

[Castro] Ciro continues to head the small group of tanks there. He is at the head of the small group of tanks. I am ready to go back to Cuito. [end recording]

[Video shows Fidel Castro sitting in room with Lieutenant Colonel Hector Aguilar, chief of Cuban advisers for the 25th Brigade of FAPLA]

[Begin recording] [Castro] (?The men) that escaped with their lives joined you? Or did some come afterward?

[Aguilar] No, they were evacuated by FAPLA.

[Castro] FAPLA?

[Aguilar] Yes, FAPLA troops, who acquitted themselves very well. They were very brave. They carried them away from the battlefield and started off on foot.

[Castro] Wounded?

[Aguilar] They were wounded. They carried them and set out on foot.

[Castro] So, some of the tank personnel who escaped were wounded?

[Aguilar] They were wounded and FAPLA soldiers saved them.

[Castro] And FAPLA troops saved them?

[Aguilar] FAPLA carried them off. I took as many as I could pick up.

[Castro] The ones you picked up—there were some tank personnel among those you picked up?

[Aguilar] Yes, of course.

[Castro] So, you spent some time looking around. What time did you begin the withdrawal?

[Aguilar] We began withdrawing at approximately 0430. However, it was very dark.

[Castro] Your BTR was not moving?

[Aguilar] No, my BTR was completely destroyed. Completely.

[Castro] The only vehicle was a tank?

[Aguilar] The only vehicle we had was a tank. We put everybody on the tank.

[Castro] If it had not been for the tank, the wounded would not have been saved?

[Aguilar] That's right. They would have all died. Those seriously wounded would have all died.

[Castro] What time did you get there?

[Aguilar] We got back there at 0630 to evacuate the wounded.

[Castro] The doctors, etc., were all there?

[Aguilar] Yes, everything was ready.

[Castro] Was the enemy firing its artillery?

[Aguilar] Yes, there was artillery fire.

[Castro] At that hour?

[Aguilar] Yes, they were firing...

[Castro, interrupting] You crossed the river under artillery fire. What did you use?

[Aguilar] We used the PTS [not further identified]. We had to risk it. We had no other alternative. We had to risk being all killed because we had to cross.

[Castro] When were the wounded first treated?

[Aguilar] They were first treated on this side of the river. There was a doctor there, on the east side of the river, before we crossed. There was a doctor with nurses.

[Castro] How about the second treatment?

[Aguilar] The second was at the medical post in Cuito Cuanavale. In other words, to the west. They got antibiotics...

[Castro, interrupting] Were all the wounded saved?

[Aguilar] Yes, they all were.

[Castro] Where did you put them?

[Aguilar] I put eight wounded on top of Ciro's tank. [end recording]

[Begin recording of Lieutenant Colonel Ciro Gomez, chief of the tank unit, standing in the field] It was something that came very vividly to my mind, what Comrade General Leopoldo Cintra Frias said that no wounded or dead could be left behind. If we left a dead man behind we had to mark the spot on the map to pick his body up later. No wounded could be left behind. Our decision, which we had explained to the comrades days earlier, was that we could not fall into the enemy's hands. Besides, my decision was that I would go with them wherever they fought. I was not going to remain behind as the chief.

I was going with them. [video shows Gomez standing on tank] We placed our comrades over there near the transmission with their heads pointing that way. [Word indistinct] water. The tank's exhaust pipe was there and this was very hot because the engine had worked hard. That part was very hot. I placed their legs this way to protect them from the heat. We put some raincoats

under them. That radiator hose I told you had snapped comes from back here, a short hose. This is the part that went [words indistinct]. The comrades came here. Over here, in the area of the battery, was the comrade who lost an arm. That's the mechanical control. The artilleryman from the tank that was damaged next to mine was here. He had a head wound. Right now he's not here, he's in [words indistinct]. He has a good attitude, as all young men do. He was in (Melongue). He was asked if he felt all right. His wounds were still fresh, but he said he was fine. And then he came back here. [end recording]

[Begin recording of Lieutenant Colonel Joaquin Soria Sosa, chief of advisers for FAPLA's 25th Brigade] So, in this situation, we prepared ourselves to make a final stand, inasmuch as Cuito was very close. We had been using a staggered defense with the aim of wearing down the enemy, inflicting the largest number of casualties possible. We were trying by all means to prevent them from achieving their primary objective. The objective was, first of all, to destroy the FAPLA brigades and hence demoralize the Angolan Armed Forces in the south, thus creating political-military conditions to enter Cuito. This they had not been able to accomplish. They had planned it for early January.

Here, they carried out two very strong air attacks, using four airplanes each time. Between the 17th and the 18th, they hit the 25th very hard with their air attacks and they hit the (?59)th Brigade with heavy long-range artillery fire. [end recording]

[Narrator] After each South African attack was repulsed, the defenses were reestablished very quickly. This sector, east of the Cuito River, could in no way fall into the racists' hands. That was the decision of the Angolan and Cuban troops sent to this front. [video shows closeup of fighter plane] Meanwhile, the Angolan-Cuban Air Force continued to truly distinguish themselves. When the Soviet MiG's flew over Cuito Cuanavale and surroundings, the enemy Air Force and its long-range artillery preferred to be silent. In these last days of February 1988, the racists had suffered some casualties among their pilots. In their encounters with the MiG-23's, the Mirages always got the worst of it. No less accurate were the bombs dropped on the enemy positions. Thus, as soon as the South Africans detected the Angolan-Cuban Air Force in the airspace close to their batteries, they rapidly camouflaged the artillery and avoided being a target at all costs. For the Angolan-Cuban Air Force, there was only one opponent of note: the bad weather conditions at this time of year.

With their constant attacks on Cuito Cuanavale, the South Africans and their puppets demonstrated a great deal of impatience to occupy the position. For months, diplomats and political leaders were preparing a possible quadripartite meeting of Angola, Cuba, South Africa, and the United States, the latter as mediator. The racists were planning to arrive at the meeting with broad military advantages that might allow them to impose their conditions. Up to now, both in Cuito Cuanavale and the southwest flank of Angola, from where the advance to the Namibian border was taking place, the Angolan, Cuban, and SWAPO troops had not allowed their South African opponents any type of advantage. Nevertheless, the racists were still confident that with the successive attacks they carried out during January and part of February, they had truly created an unstable situation in the Cuito Cuanavale defenses. They were getting ready to strike the final blow.

Immediately after the battles ended, reconnaissance groups were organized. It was necessary to determine the location of the principal groupings, learn the size of the forces, and collect all the information that would make it possible for the Angolan and Cuban specialists to prepare the forces and means to deal with new attacks.

The reconnoiters always acted quickly and skillfully. The South Africans and their puppets were constantly on the move. During those February days, the racists had changed their tactics. They preferred to move at night now.

At the same time that the enemy moves were watched, work was also underway without respite to keep the fighting equipment in perfect condition. Surprise was never a factor in favor of South Africa. In the airfields, men and equipment were moved day and night. Work was intense in the early morning hours of 25 February in the airbases of the southern front and in the defense lines of Cuito Cuanavale. Based on the reconnaissance and the calculations of the specialists, it was known that the enemy would again try to take the eastern side of the river.

At 0400, an attack began on the left flank of FAPLA's 25th Brigade. The Angolan-Cuban artillery returned fire first, and then combat security and reconnaisance groups in the immediate area of the enemy flanks did the same. Everything had been ready to drive back the enemy before dawn. That day's fighting lasted for more than 12 hours.

[Begin recording] [First speaker, dressed in camouflage] Our artillery began to harass the enemy around 0600. They were supporting the Air Force. When our Air Force was in the air, they did not stop firing. In other words, the 25th did not fire. [sentence as heard] Our artillery began harassing them. They were firing constantly until about 1530; in other words, from 0600 to 1530. We were able to see when they entered the old position of the (?59th); they entered a minefield. They went crazy. The artillery and the Air Force were shooting at them. They were in a trap.

[Second speaker, dressed in camouflage with one star on his shoulder] We were in the command post with Gen Polo [Leopoldo Cintras Frias], the chief [words indistinct] and several more there around 1300. That's what we saw. They tried, when they saw the intensive (?fire), they tried to withdraw from the old (?25-B) position. [Words indistinct] right away, we fired again with the two (M-21) pieces. From the smoke that went up, it had

to have been a super effective shot. They tried to go back. That's when we [words indistinct]. We could see them clearly some 11 km away. [someone standing by says: "It was 17 to 18 km."] More or less. You could see the tanks and the infantry clearly. They were crossing the pond. We could seen them falling because of the mines. [Passage indistinct]

At around 1500 or 1600, we heard them on the radio requesting support to be able to get damaged equipment and the dead and wounded out. If my memory serves, the figures they gave were 20 dead and 54 wounded. I feel that on that day they paid for what they did on the 14th. They paid heavily.

[Third speaker, dressed in camouflage with two stars on his shoulder] Gen Leopoldo Cintra Frias, better known as Polo, showed up at the command post at around 0800. As soon as he got there, he climbed up a tree serving as an observation post. He started directing the whole operation from up there. He came down at 1730 when the shooting stopped. He was directing and encouraging the men. We honestly feel very encouraged with the action of the 25th, because we feel we struck the enemy a heavy blow.

[Second speaker] It should also be pointed out that around 1600 [words indistinct] one of our pilots accomplished quite a feat, in my opinion. He was chasing a Mirage. Before he knew it, he was out of fuel. He had to come back. He decided to land at the Cuito airfield, which the enemy practically [words indistinct]. There was havoc. He landed. They said, hey, it's a MiG, not a Mirage. It was a demonstration of the bravery of those who were there. They grabbed the pilot and even had to use some rough language with him, because the man was checking the plane, which was his habit. But they had to get him out of there and save the plane. So the pilot was taken out of there. They got a BTR. One man had no shirt on, another had no shoes. Naturally, [words indistinct] began to fall on that field. It looked like carnival time. Many comrades, under enemy fire, pushed the plane off the runway, putting it into a hangar for protection. In a matter of seconds—I don't know where it came from—they had a fuel tank. The plane was fueled and then it took off. If I remember correctly, he didn't even have a parachute. The plane took off [words indistinct] they couldn't see him [words indistinct] he reached Menongue without mishap. They were waiting for him there with ambulances, firemen, etc. That was a feat. [passage indistinct] [end recording]

[Narrator] On 30 May 1988, the chief of the Cuban state, Fidel Castro Ruz, met in Havana with the delegates to the Nonaligned Movement's ministerial meeting on disarmament. [video shows Castro shaking hands with others] Speaking behind closed doors, he explained the evolution of the events in southern Angola in detail, as well as Cuba's position on this matter. Several international press agencies reported different versions. However, the truth is that the Cuban president was open and frank with the visitors. He devoted part of his speech to events around Cuito Cuanavale.

[Begin recording of Castro, addressing delegates] After that moment, the South Africans could not take Cuito Cuanavale from us. On 22 February, they said they had taken Cuito Cuanavale. What was happening while they advanced toward the positions defended by the 25th Angolan Brigade? The artillery, dozens of cannons, were firing over the river at the approaching columns. It was a strong artillery barrier. Very strong. The ammunition no longer had to be taken across to the other side of the river. The ammunition went over air. They crossed the river over the air; that is, the projectiles did.

The South Africans at that moment were facing a deadly artillery barrier. The Air Force was constantly on them. There were the minefields. And then something unique happened! South African airplanes were on the ground. South African tanks were flying. Because, when the tanks and armored carriers hit the minefields, they began to fly. It was a fire barrier from the moment they approached, arrived, and left. They broke their teeth against the defense in eastern Cuito Cuanavale. They used some big tanks called Elephant [preceding word in English]. They are huge. They weigh about 60 [unit of measurement not specified]. I know because we captured a few. And it was very difficult to get them to the other side of the river. There was not a raft big enough to carry them over. They are giant tanks.

However, after the 25th, they attacked on 25 February, 1 March, and 23 March. That was their last attempt to seize, not Cuito, but the beachhead on the other side of the Cuito River. They suffered a considerable number of casualties there, heavy casualties. There were Namibian casualties from among the Defense Forces. They had white South African casualties. And that's what pains them most—the white casualties. They also employed UNITA troops in all these adventures. They wore themselves out in the battle of Cuito. In the last part of the fighting, even the tanks on the western bank of the river reached the edge of the river and participated in the fighting.

It must be said that the 25th Angolan Brigade east of the river covered itself with glory. It must be said that the Angolans have fought with great courage and extraordinary tenacity. [end recording]

[Begin recording of Soria, in the field; while he speaks a voice translating into Russian is heard in the background] When we arrived here, the situation was very difficult. We had to work to raise combat readiness and prepare our response. This was done often. We managed to cancel out the Air Force over the sector [words indistinct]. Here we have a group of Cubans. None of them is an adviser. Second, none is a simple rifleman. They are all reconnaissance men. If we obtain information on the enemy, it is

because these comrades, beginning with the political officer, the artillery chief, the intelligence chief, the cook, and the doctor, along with another group, were able to go more than 20 km to the rear guard. They were able to find out the accurate number of battalions and the main groupings. They then had the pleasure of seeing how our Air Force struck them. In addition, they earned the distinction of guiding the fire and achieving high effectiveness with the artillery.

Please, excuse me, I don't know how to make speeches. However, this comrade took our medicine [words indistinct]. He is a rocket launcher. He is now a machine gunner because this group is the second (?frontline). [end recording]

[Narrator] Time runs its course. The defenses east and west of the Cuito River were made stronger and better. The enemy invested more resources in each new attack. They tried to attack with various columns in several directions at the same time. But it did not work. They reinforced their troops with members of elite units, such as the 82d Division of the South African professional Army, and they were also defeated.

South Africa counted on sophisticated military techniques for its attacks and was confident that only the Namibian puppets and UNITA bandits were to die. But South Africa never counted on the combative ability, bravery, and stoicism of Angolans and Cubans. Nevertheless, it persisted and made other attacks during the month of March.

[Begin Soria recording] The 22d was the eve of the next attack. Something happened again which was dictated by mother nature. The weather turned bad and aircraft could not act in contrast with the 1st when they could act after the first hours of the morning. They could not act on the 23d. They could not act during the entire day. So the enemy repeated history by attacking from the left flank.

According to our conclusions, it was very unfavorable to deploy troops in the defense front because there was a very big floodplain [chana] between the Tumpo and Dala Rivers in the rear of the old defense which was under the control of the direct fire of the tanks' cannon and the direct fire of all antiaircraft means which in turn were also ready for land attacks. Therefore, South Africa apparently considered the fact that it was going to be attacked from far away and repeated the attack through the left flank.

This time it used more tanks and apparently fewer armored cars. But this time we were also able to repeat the treatment but with much more experience than the previous time. The concentration of artillery fire was carried out better because it was obvious that aircraft were not going to act. Fire maneuvers were carried out from the right flank and the center of the defense toward the left flank because all the means were set up in such a way that this could be carried out. That is, if the enemy changed its main thrust, we could change the defense fire elements without changing the means. It was disadvantageous to do this in such an uncovered terrain. So, the [words indistinct] was moved. This made the fire be so on target that the enemy had to stop the attack. It stopped the attack in order to reorganize combat action but it did not count—it appeared so—on the fact that we had already again mined the places through which they had attacked first. They fell in the mine fields. Up to that moment, they had not been able to reach the main mine field—the one closest to the defense. This time—the mine fields were within 500, 550 meters—they arrived but they had to go through a line of booby traps which had been built with entire TNT boxes which were mounted on top of 2 or 3 antitank mines [words indistinct] flew up in the air.

A chief very dear to us said tanks should fly up in the air. Cuban and FAPLA engineers thought that the only way to ensure that was to put one or two TNT boxes and reinforce with mines. So in this way it was the other way around, instead of reinforcing mines we reinforced booby traps with mines.

They approached with mine sweeping tanks and led the way, the equipment coming behind. But nobody in the column can attack a front guard; one has to deploy. When they made the deployment... [changes thought] We had not placed mines in a conventional manner but the way we thought it was better under those circumstances. Instead of looking for [words indistinct] we looked for the places—because we had been there on foot—in which one, two, three, or five tanks could be deployed. We began to mine the fields. They ran parallel, perpendicular, as well as slanted to the front. It was a kind of maze which scouts knew very well to be able to do their job, but whoever went through had to suffer. In one way or another the way was [words indistinct].

The squad chief of Menongue was able to leave late in the afternoon. We were able to meet later with another comrade. That is, only two planes were able to take off and participate in a strike on the enemy.

Then this battle ended with the defeat of the South African group at the hands of the 25th FAPLA Brigade. The Cuban deployment system was very well supported by this air strike and, above all, by the work of the advisers of the tank unit and the comrades in my work group who performed very meritoriously.

The two most outstanding, the two exemplary comrades were the cook—he left the kitchen as he did on another occasion—who fought with a [words indistinct]. Nevertheless, despite the battle he was kind enough to make some coffee and distribute it among the trenches. At the end of the battle he had hot food for us. We're still asking how he could do so many things because he fought hard with the [words indistinct] since the enemy had 450 meters and he had to start firing from 1,500 meters. Nevertheless, he's very even tempered. He lives in the vedado. He's very calm. He would stand up and say, I'll

be right back. He'd go to his kitchen, which was close to our position, do his work, and return. He'd return to fight. This made you want to laugh in the middle of such an overwhelming situation.

Other outstanding comrades were the political officer and the doctor.

Above all, the artillery unit was outstanding. They controlled the enemy situation very well. They worked very hard with the FAPLA comrades. Their work enabled us to strengthen the position of the troops and it ended with the elimination of the enemy.

An older comrade from the Eastern Army, Angel Osorio, and Comrade Captain Oso, who was the gunner, from the Western Army, were successful because they had a lot of experience from previous battles. [end recording]

[Begin recording of Castro, speaking to nonaligned delegates, in Spanish with simultaneous English translation] Then South Africa committed itself to take Cuito. They were planning to strike a blow. I can assure you of one thing: Africa's history will have one very important moment. Before Cuito Cuanavale and after Cuito Cuanavale, because the powerful South Africa [words indistinct] clashed against a small piece of territory defended by blacks and mulattos—I call all Cubans mulattos—from Angola and the Caribbean.

Imagine that big power which has been building up its weapons for 10 years, invincible, intelligent, and it clashed against a small piece of territory. I'm not talking about the western side of the river. The enemy has not even been able to attack the western side of the river where the majority of the forces are located.

Of course, if they had been able to annihilate the three brigades east of the river, it would have been difficult to stop them. If they would have been able to take advantage of certain opportunities at a certain time and annihilated those three brigades, Cuito Cuanavale's position would have been unsustainable. The three brigades saved themselves, the beachhead was maintained, the west was strengthened, and it became impossible for the South Africans.

When you meet a white South African, a racist, the only thing you have to ask him is, what happened in Cuito Cuanavale? What happened in Cuito Cuanavale? [repeats himself] That's all you have to ask him. [applause]

There's something else. They said that the communists—the South Africans think everyone's a communist, including someone who can't read or write, and they even think their neighbors are communist—had 20,000 casualties: 5,000 deaths, and 15,000 wounded. I have to ask them, if the communists had 20,000 casualties, why didn't you take Cuito Cuanavale? Why didn't you take it? That's another question to ask them. It's a good question to ask them in public and in private.

You may wonder why I'm telling you such a long story. I think this is important. It's important because the act is of historic importance. It is not as significant for Latin Americans because they are so far away from South Africa, but I know what it means to the Africans. This is why Cuito Cuanavale is significant.

More than 6 months have passed and they are far from taking Cuito Cuanavale and they will not be able to take Cuito Cuanavale. We were so sure of this that we made a medal to decorate the heroic defenders of Cuito Cuanavale, both Angolans and Cubans. We have decorated those who were both east and west of the river. The Angolan Government has also decorated the troops. All the defenders of Cuito Cuanavale, thousands of men, have been decorated for their behavior during those battles. [end recording]

[Begin recording] [Cuban Ambassador to Angola Martin Mora, reading statement to troops during an outdoor ceremony] In the name of the president of the Councils of State and Government of the Republic of Cuba, Commander in Chief Fidel Castro Ruz, and FAR Minister Army General Raul Castro Ruz, we have the honor of conferring upon you the medal for the defense of Cuito Cuanavale. It was created by the Cuban Council of State to honor the deeds and heroism of the combatants of the glorious Armed Forces of the People's Republic of Angola, of the heroic internationalist combatants of our invincible FAR, and the internationalist combatants of other peoples. [video shows officers handing medals to men and women]

By detaining and resisting for more than 3 months the brutal assaults of the racist hordes and of their lackeys, the puppets of UNITA, you have shown the world that the Angolan people are firm in their will to defend their territory up to the last palm tree. You have shown that the internationalist and revolutionary will of our Cuban combatants of the glorious FAR is unbreakable.

You are the will, conscience, dignity, and courage of the peoples of Africa, Latin America, and the entire Third World. With your story you have decisively contributed to the attainment of peace in southwest Africa and you have demonstrated by deed that: No, Mr racist; no, Mr imperialist; this is not the road to solving the conflict that you yourselves created. [Video shows man in camouflage reading statement in Portuguese to troops while someone else hands medals to them]

[Speaker in camouflage] It is in this way that in recognition of the merits that I mentioned earlier that we are here at this ceremony decorating some of the combatants of FAPLA and the internationalists with the medal awarded for services rendered in the defense of the fatherland.

In the name of the commander in chief, Army General Comrade President Jose Eduardo dos Santos, we salute the combatants of FAPLA and the internationalist comrades now decorated for their firm and exemplary attitude demonstrated during combat actions. Honor and glory to the heroes! The struggle continues; the victory is certain! Thank you very much. [applause; crowd shouts: "Long live the MPLA (Popular Liberation Movement of Angola)-Labor Party! Viva! Long live Comrade President Jose Eduardo dos Santos! Viva! Long live the PCC! Viva! Long live Fidel! Viva! Long live the CPSU! Viva! Long live Gorbachev! Viva! The struggle continues! Victory is Certain! Long live Cuito Cuanavale! Viva! Long live proletarian internationalism! Viva! Long live proletarian internationalism! Viva! The struggle continues! Victory is certain!"; applause]

[Brigade General Miguel Lorente, receiving a banner] This reminds me of the battles in Ethiopia. We also got a banner there in the palace. It's very pretty. This is the symbol of the heroism of our youth, right? We'll have to hold this high for Cuito, for what Cuito stands for, and for all humanity, as the commander in chief says.

This happened the other day. [video shows Lorente pointing at bullet holes in the door of his truck on the driver's side] See what they're capable of? They were shooting to kill. [laughter]

[Speaker in camouflage] That's why you should be driving around here in a tank.

[Lorente] No, what you need here is to have nine lives like a cat. [laughter] Above all, you need to be communist so that they'll respect us. [Words indistinct] and what we'll do to them, what we have yet to do.

This is a serious matter. The chief of staff... [corrects himself] the second chief of the brigade was speaking about the fortifications, the high combative disposition we need to maintain and how we should prepare to repel any attack.

You've seen how we were able to capture combat technology from them, as well as to touch their dead, collect their rifles and whole technology, communications, everything they left behind. I'm sure that, just as he said, if they launch another attack, we'll [words indistinct] and then they'll see what the sons of Fidel are truly like. They'll see what the sons of Fidel are capable of doing.

Do you want to fight? Let's fight. But let's think about it well and let's prepare ourselves well so that each cannon shell we fire will mean one less enemy, one less tank, and one less vehicle. Let's strike them with the might of the revolution and fundamentally of our youth. When that force is given to the tank, the tank jumps. Isn't that true? The revolutionaries inside the tank also jump. [end recording]

[Narrator] [Video shows map of Angola with area circled in red] Angolan, Cuban, and SWAPO troops continued to move southward according to the joint plan they prepared in response to South Africa's escalation at the end of 1987. They advanced 250 km and penetrated an area in which South Africa—illegally and without punishment—for years had carried punitive actions on residents of that region and on SWAPO combatants. Units of the three joint forces are located at this time only 50 km from the occupied Namibia border and from places strategic for South African interests. [Video shows tanks and artillery hidden by brush]

It is precisely here, in the south, were women antiaircraft units which are fulfilling internationalist missions in Angola are located. [Video shows women dressed in camouflage uniforms disembarking plane receiving flowers as they get off. They are shown handling antiaircraft artillery in field, operating radar equipment.]

[Begin recording of Castro, speaking to group of women] I asked myself, in circumstances such as this one in which tens of thousands of fellow countrymen are here on the frontline fighting the South African enemy, could we exclude women? Could we deny women the opportunity of also participating? This is why, comrades, the decision was made—based on the principles in which they have always been made—to also send women contingents on an absolutely voluntary basis to fulfill the internationalist mission in Angola. This is why you, women from Guantanamo, have had the great opportunity of being able to go and fulfill this internationalist mission. [end recording]

[Narrator] The units which are closer to the Namibia border constantly use their forces and means for scouting. Angolans, Cubans, and SWAPO combatants also act jointly in this activity. The cohesion and effectiveness reached by these groups is respected by the enemy. [Video shows map of Angola]

Sergeant Johan Papenfus was captured in a clash with South African forces last March. War correspondents arrived in this unit precisely at the time of the arrival of the group of scouts, who prompted the fleeing of the group in which the now prisoner Papenfus was operating. These are some of the means captured from the South Africans after the fighting. [Video shows artillery, tanks, knives, and ammunition]

These two young men, [video shows men in hospital] one wounded in the left hand and the other one in the mouth, clashed with the armored car in which Papenfus was. They were able to disable it. They then carried the prisoner, who was also wounded, took him to a safe place and gave him first aid. As it was reported by the Cuban media, Sgt Johan Papenfus was brought to Cuba to receive specialized treatment because of the seriousness of his wounds. [Video shows man in hospital] War prisoner Papenfus received all the necessary medical

attention and is treated with absolute respect in accordance with international regulations set for these cases and following the traditional behavior of the rebel army since it was created. [Video shows Papenfus getting exercise, smiling]

[Begin Castro recording] So this is the present situation which has represented a total change in the balance of power. This is what has happened. There has been a total change in the balance of power. It is very important to know about this in order to answer a question which many people have in mind. South Africa wants to negotiate. Why does South Africa want to negotiate? South Africa wants to negotiate because it is fighting a very strong force, one it had never encountered before anywhere.

This is not 1975. In 1975 we had 400 tanks but we did not have planes. We practically had no antiaircraft means. Now we had gathered so many tanks here [video shows Castro pointing to large map of Angola with red and green markings] as South Africa has.

They are better because our tanks are T-55's and T-62's and many South African tanks are very big and make a lot of noise. You can hear them from far away and they are easy targets. It is not hard to hit them with a cannon shell. They have many of those Elephants which are very good to make noise and scare with their size. They are actually very vulnerable. There are as many tanks here as South Africa has. There are a considerable number of aircraft and the area is saturated with antiaircraft means and Angolan and Cuban troops with very high morale. Morale is so high that if it was up to them this problem would had been resolved. But we are responsible for the men there and have to do things with common sense and great wisdom.

The enemy has not been given one single chance. Each step has been very sound. So if the enemy decided to do what it has said, that it is going to explode, that nobody knows what is going to happen... [changes thought] We have an idea of what is going to happen because the steps we have taken are very sound, very well thought out, and safe. [end recording]

[Narrator] In May, South Africa agreed to participate in a quadripartite meeting in London. [Video shows meeting in London] There they asked if Angolans and Cubans would continue advancing to the south, if they were going to occupy the water reservoirs inside the Angolan border. The response of Angolans and Cubans was very clear. No type of guarantees can be given while South African troops remain by force in Angolan territory. If they withdraw, the threat against them can then be reduced.

For its part, the United States would benefit if an agreement was reached. They are seriously interested in the negotiations moving forward and have not put any obstacles in the way. However, South Africa is not serious. It was agreed in London to hold a new quadripartite meeting, but Pretoria asked Angola for a bilateral meeting in Brazzaville, the Congo, which was accepted by the Angolans under the premise that that meeting would not replace the quadripartite meetings. Nevertheless, there they made unacceptable demands and hidden threats using diplomatic language. Later, in Cairo, Egypt, the Angolan and Cuban delegations told the South African representatives that a global solution to the conflict in southern Angola will only be accepted if UN Resolution No 435, which establishes Namibia's independence, is applied without amendments. They added that no agreement can be reached while the racists and other countries do not stop providing material aid to the UNITA puppet bands. South Africa attempted to give a response to the Angolan and Cuban proposals but its arguments were not convincing. The United States maintained its mediating efforts and showed great concern at one point in the meeting, when a possible break in the talks appeared to be imminent. After 2 days of meetings, it was agreed to hold another meeting at the expert level in the United States in July.

Angola and Cuba believe the Cairo meeting was useful and the conditions are in place to reach a just and acceptable agreement for all the sides. Twenty-four hours after the Cairo meeting ended, on Sunday, 26 June, South Africa attacked with long-range artillery the Cuban-Angolan positions of Chipa, south of Caana, Cunene Province. There the enemy used almost 200 missiles. On Monday, 27 June, a day after the racists' attacks, there was an air raid over the South African forces located in Calueque which resulted in considerable material and human losses. That same day, a strong South African patrol which was scouting en route to Chipa was intercepted and almost wiped out 17 km southwest of this point. Any South African attack on the Cuban-Angolan forces in the southern front of Angola will likewise receive an immediate and strong response.

[Begin Castro recording] But in the fundamental places, in the main strategic places, they have pulled back without resistance. It is very important for you to know that we are seriously working for a settlement. We are determined to work seriously to find a solution. It is true that if they had taken Cuito Cuanavale and had annihilated the concentration of troops, what kind of negotiations could we have? We would have had to sit down and accept the conditions they would have imposed on us. But this was impossible; everything changed.

Perhaps you will understand it better if I use boxing language. Cuito Cuanavale is the left jab [preceding word in English] which keeps the enemy at a distance. The advance towards the west is Stevenson's right hand threatening to fall on the boxer's head. This is a boxing image.

Now, we are not working for a military victory. We don't [words indistinct]. We would do nothing for military glory or victory. We feel a responsibility for the lives of each of our men. We fight for a just and dignified solution that may guarantee the security of Angola and

the independence of Namibia. In exchange, we will gladly withdraw up to the last soldier within an agreed timetable. In our position, we have created all the conditions for a solution.

Of course, this entails risks. We have been willing to take these risk of a serious, big confrontation. We have had to take the risk because otherwise there would be no solution. However, we are not seeking a military victory. We are seeking a reasonable, just, peaceful solution—a solution to part of the problem in southern Africa. I believe that if this political solution is found, guaranteed by the United Nations, and if Namibian independence is achieved, the time perhaps will be closer when South Africa will have to talk with the ANC [African National Congress] and will have to discuss the problems of apartheid. After this, it will have no other choice. In the present world situation, in a climate of detente, peace, and disarmament, if this solution is achieved, I believe that the time will have come to demand from South Africa that it discuss the resolution of the apartheid problem with the ANC .

South Africa knows it is in a dangerous situation. It had to face all these forces against it. South Africa is calculating, cynical, opportunistic. If it can do something with impunity, it will do it. If it can get into Mozambique, it will. If it can get into Zambia, it will, to commit any crime. If it can get into Lesotho, Botswana [words indistinct] no casualties when it can get away with it. However, when it has to face a force such as this one there [words indistinct] now they have to think it over very carefully. That's the reality. They know they are at risk.

What happens there will depend on them. If they react arrogantly and cause a confrontation, they might not only lose Namibia, they might lose apartheid. If South Africa risks a military disaster, it could be the end of apartheid, because the regime is too weak, too weak politically. It has too many oppressed people. It cannot risk a big military defeat. It cannot risk a military disaster.

We know this. But we don't want a military victory. We want this problem to be settled now. I think we will then stand at the threshold of the solution to the problem of apartheid. I believe it is one of the big problems remaining not only for Africa but for the whole world. [end recording]

Dominican Republic

Government Rejects Contra Meeting Protest Note

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[Excerpts] Santo Domingo, 18 Jul (EFE)—Today the Dominican Government "definitively" refused to provide explanations demanded by the Managua government for letting the Nicaraguan Resistance [RN] hold their second annual meeting in the Dominican Republic.

This information was given to EFE by Acting Foreign Minister Fabio Herrera Cabral after his meeting with President Joaquin Balaguer at the National Palace.

Herrera Cabral termed impolite the publication of a paid advertisement in the local media of Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto Brockman's protest note and his government's demand for explanations by the Dominican Government. The Nicaraguan foreign minister could have sent the note through normal diplomatic channels, the acting foreign minister said. [passage omitted]

"First of all, we do not accept condemnation by any government, because we are a free, independent, and democratic country, and we must emphasize the word democratic," Herrera Cabral said.

"Therefore, the government allows anyone wishing to hold meetings here to do so, provided they abide by the law. Thus, the contra meeting does not compromise the government, because the government is not supporting the contras; the government is simply allowing the free expression of ideas in our country," Herrera Cabral added.

The acting foreign minister said that the Dominican Republic is a country where all opinions can be expressed, "where all opinions can be heard; although, in this case, we have played no role in the opinions expressed by the RN here." [passage omitted]

Cardenas Claims Evidence of FDN Victory

PA1907224788 Mexico City EL DIA in Spanish 15 Jul 88 p 1

[Article by Ruben Arizmendi]

[Text] We do not recognize the figures supplied by the Federal Electoral Commission because they are not true, Cuauhtemoc Cardenas Solorzano said yesterday, pointing out that the people's right to freely elect their rulers will be defended.

He said there are many elements to demonstrate that the National Democratic Front [FDN] won the elections and that more information is being collected about minutes of polling places that do not correspond to final results, among other problems already discovered.

Interviewed in his private office, the presidential candidate of the FDN and the Mexican Socialist Party [PMS] added: Although the corresponding challenges have already been submitted, we will continue informing the people about the true situation through every means available.

If necessary—the pro-Cardenas Front for National Reconstruction has already stated this—we could request the annulment of the presidential election if the authorities do not leave another way out. However, he hoped that such a situation would not be reached.

Cardenas Solorzano made another appeal to the people to attend a march tomorrow at 1000 that will be run from the Revolution Monument to the Zocalo in Mexico City to initiate a mobilization that will not end until it is recognized "that the votes were against the official regime and the government candidates."

Cardenas said that beginning next week, a tour of the interior of the country will begin, possibly beginning in Guerrero or Veracruz. He said an effort will be made to visit those areas where "the abuse was most brutal."

After a closed-door meeting with the leaders of the Democratic Current and Heberto Castillo, former PMS presidential candidate, Cardenas added that broad sectors of public opinion, social and cultural life, and even the government will have a direct influence in this popular struggle, because no one is willing to go along with the fraud.

Regarding the agreement between the FDN-PMS, the National Action Party [PAN], and the Revolutionary Workers Party [PRT] to defend the vote, Cardenas Solorzano said the agreement is still in force and the parties have been meeting to act jointly, particularly with the PRT, on every legal point.

Regarding PAN, he said that in spite of the statements made by Jesus Gonzalez Schmall, Federal District senate candidate, that his opponent, Porfirio Munoz Ledo, won with votes to spare, he continues to support the defense for the vote.

Finally, he said that probably the votes of the opposition were changed to abstentions by pulling them out of the electoral packages.

Clouthier Begins 'Peaceful Struggle' in Sinaloa

PA2007031488 Mexico City EL DIA in Spanish 16 Jul 88 p 2

[Article by Leopoldo Aviles Meza]

[Text] Culiacan, Sinaloa, 15 Jul—Manuel J. Clouthier, former PAN [National Action Party] presidential candidate, has reasserted that he "will struggle to the very end of my life to ensure respect for the people's will." He insisted that "we have barely begun a peaceful struggle, a resistance without violence, although a strong protest, against the electoral fraud" that has been perpetrated.

Clouthier led a rally in front of the cathedral in Sinaloa's capital to begin "the civil, peaceful, and organized resistance," and he pledged to continue it "as long as you want."

Clouthier defended what he called a victory in the presidential elections and pledged to stand firm in the struggle for victory in Sinaloa's 8th electoral district. According to PAN, its candidate defeated PRI's candidate.

Clouthier said here that he has requested, at the national level, the annulment of the 8th district's results due to irregularities in 40 percent of the results.

Clouthier urged the citizenry and the supporters who gathered there to "begin a referendum, working day and night, to learn what the people's desire are concerning the results of the 6 July elections."

He said: "We want to know if the people voted and decided who Mexico's president will be for the next 6 years."

At the conclusion of the event, approximately 500 followers, invited and led by Clouthier, marched through the city's main streets to the local electoral commission—whose doors were closed since business hours were over—and demanded justice in the 8th district, where PAN claims that its candidate won a victory.

Elections Seen as 'Authentic Popular Uprising'

PA1907133888 Mexico City EL DIA in Spanish 14 Jul 88 p 4

[Article by Hector Ramirez Cuellar: "Preliminary Lessons of the Electoral Process"]

[Excerpts] The 6 July elections represented an authentic popular uprising against the country's economic policy and against those groups who implemented it. All traditional forms of political domination failed and the political-electoral map completely changed.

In fact, plans to obtain 20 million votes for the PRI candidate were unsuccessful. Leaders of the principal workers and peasant federations, incorporated into the ruling party, promised block voting, as if their members have no consciences and feel no aggravation as a result of the devastating effects the crisis has had on their income and standard of living. [passage omitted]

In the large industrial areas of Mexico City and Mexico State, with their large working class populations, Cardenas's victory was resounding. Union leaders failed in their attempts to pressure their members; many members were forced to attend official rallies, but, in the end, they were well aware of the free and secret nature of their vote. They defied threats and aggression and they voted, most of all, for the PPS [Popular Socialist Party], which came in second and third place in the zones where the working class is concentrated. The working class can, in this way, begin a process to liberate themselves, ideologically and politically, from the leadership that has led them into a state of conformity and consumerism.

In the main cities there was an awakening of the urban middle class and even of sectors within the upper bourgeoisie. For example, in Polanco and Las Lomas de Chapultepec, the PPS came in second and third place in the general elections. Perhaps this was due to the fact that members of the domestic staffs of well-to-do families also voted. Because there is a higher educational level and greater voting supervision in the cities, the electoral results more or less conform to reality. The anticommunist campaign did not frighten the middle class; instead, the campaign backfired on those who devised it. Many millions of pesos were spent in vain; the propaganda used was so blatant and primitive that it lost all credibility in the eyes of the urban sectors that voted for PAN [National Action Party] and the FDN [National Democratic Front], which also dispels the notion that PAN was only strong in rural areas. [passage omitted]

Our special recognition goes out to the Armed Forces, since in Mexico City's 18th District, site of a military camp, the majority of votes were for Cardenas and the FDN. In an unusual move, the neighborhood and traffic police also followed the Armed Forces' example. This indicates that the firm control exerted over them is faltering.

In Mexico City, the PRI candidates suffered a resounding defeat. PAN has gained strength as a political and electoral option, but the FDN also emerged as the third political force in the majority of districts and the foremost force in terms of the presidential vote. PRI, which has been a minority force during past elections, became an even smaller minority, and this has had a destabilizing effect on PRI as a whole, which, apparently, has focused on medium- and small-sized cities.

During this 6-year period, due to concessions made to the right and to its economic policy, PRI has lost a large part of its social and electoral base. For many of its rallies, it was forced to transport large numbers of poor people and to spend a lot of money on propaganda that nevertheless lacked progressive content.

We have definitely embarked on a different phase in the nation's political development.

Pemex Reports Oil Price Drop in June

PA1607214988 Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 11 Jul 88 p 13

[Text] Yesterday Pemex revealed in its monthly price report that the price of Mexico's oil exports to the Far East dropped $1.20 per barrel during June.

The "Maya" type of crude oil sold for $11.40 while its price in May was $12.60 per barrel. Also, the "Istmo" type of crude oil dropped from $15.30 in May to $14.10 in June.

Pemex said the Mexican oil's lower prices are the result of unstable international oil markets. However, it added that Pemex has already signed a contract to export 180,000 barrels per day to Japan.

Furthermore, Mexico exported an average of 526,000 barrels per day of the light Istmo oil and 820,000 of the heavy Maya oil in 1987, the report added. During the first quarter of 1988, 561,000 barrels of Istmo oil and 788,000 barrels of Maya oil were sold per day. Also, another type of oil, the much lighter Olmeca type, will be exported during the third quarter of 1988. An average of 100,000 barrels of Olmeca oil will be exported per day. There will be a reduction in Istmo oil sales to keep export levels similar to those in 1987.

Extraction of the Olmeca crude oil began in recent months at wells in Chiapas and Tabasco. Its main characteristics are low amounts of sulphur and metals and a high yield of basic lubricants, which makes it particularly suitable for export.

Briefs

Parastate Companies Sold

Queretaro, Mexico, 14 Jul—According to Comptroller General Ignacio Pichardo Pagaza, a total of 766 companies will no longer be owned by the state, under a plan that includes closures, mergers, and sales. The Mexican Government has already sold 116 of the 218 parastate companies that are for sale. [Summary] [*PA1907201888 Mexico City EL NACIONAL in Spanish 15 Jul 88 p 1*]

Costa Rica

Arias: Sandinists 'Afraid' of Peace, Democracy

PA1907202588 San Jose Radio Impacto in Spanish 1830 GMT 15 Jul 88

[Report by Mario Carmona]

[Excerpt] Costa Rican President Oscar Arias is inaugurating a number of projects in the San Francisco de Heredia District. The projects inaugurated this morning include the suburb of (Nemas), consisting of 22 houses, the paving of the streets of Santa Cecilia, and the park of the historic tank [not further identified]. He also inaugurated the San Francisco de Heredia community building.

While inaugurating some community projects in San Francisco de Heredia, President Arias said that the Sandinist government is afraid of peace and democracy, but is not afraid of arms. Arias Sanchez said the Sandinist government's actions demonstrate that the Sandinists are more fearful of peace and democracy than of 1,000 war tanks. Arias said that last Friday, [words indistinct] to the U.S. senators, one of the arguments he [not further identified] used most frequently was that aid to the contras isolated the United States because [words indistinct] agreed on a military solution, whereas the peace plan had almost full support.

Arias emphasized that until peace is given a chance, the Sandinists are actually demonstrating that they have little sincerity, that they have no desire to continue with the democratization process, and—as with many of the things they have implemented—that they backtracked with their latest measures, such as closing the newspaper LA PRENSA and Radio Catolica, making obvious that there is even less of a political opening for opposition parties and that the Sandinists do not want democracy or peace.

Arias said that there are those among the Sandinists who do not want peace and democracy because all they know is how to fire weapons. He emphasized that now more than ever [words indistinct] have the desire to fulfill the peace plan. This is part of what President Arias said:

[Begin recording] What I have to do now is to raise my voice. In the next few hours I plan to call the presidents of the Latin American democracies, give them my opinions, and listen to theirs. I want to do this with Julio Maria Sanguinetti, with President Sarney, with Alan Garcia, Raul Alfonsin, Ecuadoran President-elect Rodrigo Borja, Virgilio Barco, Miguel de la Madrid—more or less the Group of Eight—as well as with the Central American presidents, although, in the case of Central America, we have a forthcoming meeting. I believe this should be held, although the date may be changed. However, as I have often said, I want to make an evaluation on the occasion of the first anniversary of the Guatemala agreement and would like to hear more opinions. [end recording]

Finally, Arias expressed his frustration over the fact that if there is no democracy, then there will be no peace, adding that this absence of democracy is the option Nicaragua is supporting. [passage omitted]

Guatemala

Cerezo on Economic 'Crisis,' Speculation

PA1907152488 Guatemala City Radio Nuevo Mundo Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 18 Jul 88

[Text] President Vinicio Cerezo made statements to the press from the Santo Tomas Esquintas farm. The president talked about national economic problems and stressed that not only the government but private enterprise must make efforts to resolve them. He added that the government had implemented measures to reduce the impact of the economic crisis and that the private sector was responsible for ending speculation and the suffering of the majority at the hands of those who are getting rich at their expense.

Cerezo said that there are some in the private sector who are taking advantage of the economic crisis to enrich themselves when they should be strengthening democracy by creating conditions for people to have an adequate standard of living. President Cerezo called speculation a very serious problem that had to be confronted with strict measures. Responding to questions about the effectiveness of such measures, he added that just as in corruption investigations, when antispeculation measures are applied, the small fish are caught but the big fish always get away.

Honduras

Cinchoneros Claim Credit for Attack on GI's

PA1907161388 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1457 GMT 19 Jul 88

[Excerpts] Tegucigalpa, 19 Jul (ACAN-EFE)—Today the Cinchonero People's Liberation Movement, the strongest Honduran urban guerrilla group, claimed credit for the attack against a group of U.S. soldiers early Sunday morning. [passage omitted]

A communique delivered clandestinely to the local media states that the operation was named "Congolon" and that it was carried out by the "Lempira" command.

"Lempira" is the name of an Indian chief who, in the Congolon Mountains, western Honduras, armed the resistance against the Spanish conquistadores in 1502.

The Cinchoneros said that with the attack "we are telling our people that the gringos are not invincible, that bullets do penetrate them, which has already been demonstrated by the heroic people of Vietnam, Cuba, and Nicaragua."

The guerrillas said that "there will be no peace in Honduras as long as Yankee military and Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries are present and as long as the national puppet Army defends the wealthy exploiters of the people." [passage omitted]

Nicaragua

Ortega Extends Cease-Fire on 9th Anniversary

PA1907183488 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1533 GMT 19 Jul 88

[Speech by President Daniel Ortega Saavedra to mark the 9th anniversary of the Sandinist revolution in the Carlos Guerra Stadium in Juigalpa, Chontales Department—live]

[Text] Brother Nicaraguans, brothers of Chontales, Brother Heng Samrin, president of the People's Republic of Kampuchea:

On this 9th anniversary, we will touch on nine points.

First, we wish to greet and congratulate, on behalf of all the Nicaraguan people, the heroic people of Chontales, the heroic people of this 5th region, who have capably defended their revolution. [applause]

As a second point, I wish to note that we have arrived at this 9th anniversary fighting the counterrevolution with over 52,000 casualties from among the Nicaraguan people and over $12.2 billion in losses to Nicaragua's economy.

Third, we have taken a number of economic measures to defend ourselves from aggression, from the embargo, and from the blockade, to defend Nicaraguan farmers—the producers of coffee, cotton, sugarcane, cattle, and basic grain—to defend all our country's producers so that, amid the difficult circumstances imposed on us by the aggression, we can improve our economy and develop it until better times arrive.

On this third point, I wish to make it clear that when we declared the San Antonio Sugar Mill to be a public utility of social interest, it was an economic measure, because if we had had a political interest in harming the owners of the San Antonio Mill, we had already had an opportunity to do this last year, when it was revealed in the United States that the U.S. Government was distributing funds to the counterrevolutionaries through the bank owned by the owners of the San Antonio Sugar Mill. In other words, the owners of the San Antonio Sugar Mill became accomplices of the aggression that is wasting the lives of Nicaraguans and harming our people's economy.

For this reason, they immediately came to Managua to give explanations. We accepted their explanations and we gave them the opportunity to continue producing this year. The results were disastrous. The figures have already been commented upon. In fact, the Kukra Hill sugar mill, the Camilo Ortega Sugar Mill in Kukra Hill, produced more than the San Antonio Sugar Mill.

You could visit the San Antonio Sugar Mill tomorrow, comrades, and see the state in which it is being turned over to us. The international press can come, and specialists from GEPLACEA [Economic Group of Latin American and Caribbean Sugar Exporting Countries] and organizations that deal with sugar production can come to see the state of that sugar mill we are getting.

If we had not taken this measure now, that sugar mill would simply have gone under and disappeared, because in its present condition, it could not produce a single pound of sugar unless we Nicaraguans make a great effort to make that mill produce.

The fourth point has to do with the nature of our revolutionary process: This 19 July has created a certain amount of expectation because people have said the Sandinists were going to declare themselves socialists. It seems that people have still not understood that we Sandinists are socialists and that socialism has been in Nicaragua since 19 July 1979. [applause] Our socialism first defends the workers and peasants who are the backbone of the country. [applause] Our socialism also offers all the country's economic and social sectors a chance to produce and contribute to Nicaragua's development. Our socialism protects individual producers, offers credit to cattlemen, and gives land to peasants. Our socialism protects the peasant coffee and basic grain producers, the cotton producers, and all the Nicaraguan producers who really want to produce, be efficient, and share the wealth with everyone. These are the only demands we make. [applause] Our socialism, therefore, advocates a mixed economy and political pluralism within an institutional and constitutional framework, not as a disavowal of the government or of the people's power, but as a means of working with the government and with the people's power. [applause]

Our socialism advocates a nonaligned international policy. We have proposed and defended the need for Central America to be free of all foreign military presence. We advocate that Central America become a peace and neutral zone and that we be left alone to do as we please with Central America. [applause]

I continue to the fifth point now. We are also internationalists. Here is our brother Cambodian President Heng Samrin as an example of internationalism and solidarity among nations. Our countries are united, even if they are geographically very far apart, because we are both fighting for independence, peace, and democracy. [applause] In recognition of Comrade Heng Samrin's merits and to honor the heroic people of Cambodia, we recently awarded him the Sandino Order.

Today in the heart of Chontales, Nicaragua, and Central America, we have decided to award our brother Nelson Mandela the Augusto Cesar Sandino Order. We do so to ratify our internationalism, in recognition of the South African people's heroic struggle, and to honor the 70th birthday of Comrade Nelson Mandela, who is in prison.

We continue on to the sixth point. We have to say that despite the peace efforts we have been promoting at Esquipulas, at Sapoa, the United States has worked to choke peace, to kill peace. A report by the International Verification and Follow-Up Commission recognizes Nicaragua's efforts at Esquipulas. Nicaragua's efforts even went further at Sapoa. In Sapoa we were willing to discuss complete and lasting peace with the counterrevolutionaries.

What the U.S. Government has done is to order the contras to continue murdering our children, to continue murdering women, to continue murdering our youth, and to continue murdering mothers. In addition to these criminal actions, U.S. imperialism, the Yankee government, Reagan's government, has ordered a domestic destabilization plan to create a so-called government of national salvation with opposition groups, which are nothing more than groups that have assumed a counterrevolutionary—not a truly civic—position. They have gone so far as to challenge laws and attack our policemen. Organizing them, behind these plans was U.S. Ambassador Richard Melton.

It is under these circumstances, when the U.S. Government is replying to our peace efforts with bullets, by killing our children, that the U.S. press ignores the crimes committed in our country, when the U.S. Congress ignores the crimes committed in our country and cares more that the newspaper LA PRENSA or Radio Catolica are temporarily closed or because those who violate the laws are imprisoned. To them those things are more important than the life of a Nicaraguan child, the life of a young Nicaraguan girl, the life of a Nicaraguan mother killed by the counterrevolutionaries.

While we are struggling for peace and are receiving in turn this type of attitude from the U.S. Government, of course we cannot remain idle. Mr Melton did not behave as previous ambassadors had; as Ambassador Bergold behaved, as Ambassador Quinton behaved. I remember that when I received Ambassador Melton's credentials, he said to me that he certainly represents the U.S. Administration. He came from the offices of a madman, a criminal called Abrams—Elliott Abrams. He had come from that man's office. He was saturated, poisoned, with all the criminal policies that have been carried out by Abrams under Reagan's orders. He said to me: I sure am a representative of the U.S. Government, as if he were letting it clearly be known that the others—Bergold and Quinton—had not been Reagan's ambassadors.

What options did we have left? Were we going to allow Melton to conspire against our laws? [crowd shouts: "No!"] Were we going to allow Melton to conspire against our government? [crowd shouts: "No!"] Were we going to allow Melton to work in support of the counterrevolution? [crowd shouts: "No!"] We had to take action; we expelled Melton. We made that decision and we will respect the U.S. ambassador who is respectful of Nicaragua, the U.S. functionary who respects Nicaragua. But he who violates our laws, he who tries to make a mockery of the government and people, will be put in his place—in the United States. He shall not be able to remain in Nicaragua. [applause]

Throughout this struggle that we have been waging, defense has been based on the people and it has been based on the EPS as the organizing and mobilizing force of our people and on the Interior Ministry as the force of enormous support in the struggle against the counterrevolution and its criminal plans.

It is also in this struggle that we must stress the great willingness of the Nicaraguan youth, the Nicaraguan mothers, and the Nicaraguan families that for the most part, with a few exceptions, proudly contribute their sons for the Patriotic Military Service because they know this means blood will be saved, that the counterrevolution will be eliminated more quickly, and therefore that peace will come sooner to Nicaragua. [applause] We are proud that the Patriotic Military Service quotas have been fulfilled and overfulfilled so we can always be ready to defend ourselves from those who attack us. That was point seven.

Now we come to point eight. We can call point eight the Juigalpa proposal for peace, which we wish to make today. It is as follows:

1. We invite the U.S. Government to immediately resume or initiate a bilateral dialogue to normalize relations between the United States and Nicaragua.

2. We extend the halt in offensive operations, which we know as a truce, until 30 August, to provide the opportunity for the U.S. Government to agree to bilateral talks with Nicaragua and for the counterrevolutionaries to agree to continue talks in Managua on 26-28 July, in order to continue discussing the timetable, more than 22 points of which have already been approved, and to discuss Point 24, which is a key point dealing with the permanent cease-fire, disarmament, and the strengthening of democracy in Nicaragua. It is therefore a substantive point that contains all the factors that could be of concern to any well-intentioned person.

We hope that the counterrevolutionaries will respect the suspension of offensive operations, the truce. The best verifiers of who respects truces and who disrespects them are the peasants in the war zones, the peasants who are seeing that it is the contras who disregard the suspension of offensive operations, peasants who get angry when they see that the cease-fire is violated by the contras, because the peasants in Jinotega, Matagalpa, Chontales, and Nueva Guinea have enjoyed these months during which the truce, the cease-fire decreed by the Nicaraguan

Government, has been in effect. This has even allowed the peasants to plant, with optimism, more than they planted in former years, and now we have 110,000 more manzanas planted with basic grain than in previous years. Last year we planted 220,000; now we are planting 330,000 manzanas of basic grain.

The peasants want to be allowed to work in peace. Therefore, the Nicaraguan peasants, you, my brothers, who are gathered here and who will later return to your territories, you brothers who are listening to us from Matagalpa, you brothers who are listening to us from Jinotega, Nueva Segovia, Nueva Guinea, and Chontales, are the observers, the verifiers who can say who is violating the cease-fire. We know what cease-fire violations mean. You can tell the Nicaraguan people who is violating the cease-fire. Those people are criminals. Those people are attacking the people, the peasants, all Nicaraguans.

We are going to respect the cease-fire, but we are also going to respond vigorously to cowardly and criminal attacks, such as the ones that have occurred recently in this 5th region.

We also expect the U.S. Government to respect the cessation of hostilities, as it is the most responsible party. If we declare a halt to hostilities, the United States should put an end to the hostilities; it should put an end to the hostilities in accordance with the International Court of Justice [ICJ] ruling. We must defend international mechanisms and organizations. Only a few days ago, Iran accepted the UN Security Council [UNSC] resolution, which brings hope for peace in a conflict between sister nations from which the Yankees have tried to benefit. Will the Yankees dare respect—just as Iran has accepted the UNSC's resolution—and show the same respect for international legal order as Iran has? Will the Yankees abide by the ICJ ruling? Not very likely. So you see, those who accuse Iran of terrorism act as terrorists, ignoring international legal order: the United States.

On this eighth point of the Juigalpa peace proposal, we also regard as positive and support... [changes thought] and at this very minute we are mobilizing international support for the International Verification and Follow-Up Commission—which is made up of the UN secretary general, the OAS secretary general, the four Contadora governments, and the four Support Group governments—to resume activities immediately and to work on the process of verifying compliance with the Esquipulas peace plan, which all of we Central Americans are bound to fulfill without exception. We expect the Latin American response to be positive and Latin America, the OAS, and the United Nations to immediately play an active role in favor of peace in Central America.

We have now reached point nine on this 9th anniversary. I want to take advantage of point nine to recall that at this moment the contras and Reagan are meeting and plotting to bring more death and more harm to the Nicaraguan people, and that we Nicaraguans are gathered here at this square in Chontales to bring more life to the Nicaraguan people. We have not come here to offer war. We have come here to talk about work. We are here to talk about production, to talk about development, to talk about peace. These are two attitudes that speak clearly of how the Reagan government behaves—like a terrorist—and how the Nicaraguan Government behaves—like a government that respects international law.

On this 9th anniversary, in this land of Pablo Ubeda, in this land of Cornelio Silva, Amed Campos, and so many Sandinist martyrs and heroes, we, the people of Chontales and Nicaraguans, have gathered to defend the work, to defend the joy, to defend the music, to defend peace, to defend democracy, and, definitely, in January 1989, when President Reagan will be ending his mandate, the Sandinist revolution will firmly continue, the Sandinist revolution will stay and President Reagan will leave with his history of terror, leaving a sad example to peoples in the world. The revolution stays and Reagan leaves, because this has already been decided by the Nicaraguan people. [applause]

Long live the 9th anniversary of the victory of the Sandinist people's revolution! [applause] Long live Chontales! [applause] Long live Nicaragua! [applause] Long live Boaco! [applause] Long live friendship between Cambodia and Nicaragua! [applause] Long live Nelson Mandela! [applause] Long live the heroic people of South Africa! [applause] Long live the fraternal people of the United States! [applause] Long live peace! [applause] Free fatherland! [crowd shouts: "Or death!"]

Ortega on Contra Talks, Dialogue, Economy

AU1907131888 Sofia POGLED in Bulgarian No 29 18 Jul 88 p 11

[Interview with President Daniel Ortega by Lyubomir Koralov: "National Dialogue"—date and place not given]

[Excerpt] [Koralov] I was in Nicaragua 2 years ago. At that time, negotiations with the contras did not even exist as an idea.

[Ortega] In those days we stated that it was impossible to negotiate with the contras because the necessary conditions did not exist and we could not expect any positive results from such negotiations. The contras were entirely subjected to the control of the U.S. Administration, headed by President Reagan. Today they have an independent stand, because they realized that their plans are doomed to failure, that they have suffered defeats in their military operations, and because they have no political prestige in the world. For this reason, they decided to sit down at the negotiating table. They signed the Sapoa agreement on 23 March 1988, as an independent organization against President Reagan's will. We decided to conduct negotiations with them because we became convinced that conditions already exist for a real agreement, despite the fact that Reagan does not share this idea.

[Koralov] We are aware that the undeclared war is a profitable business for many of the contras. Do you think they are now sincerely willing to stop the war?

[Ortega] They convinced themselves that the big business ended with President Reagan's withdrawal, and they are not sure what stand the new U.S. administration is going to adopt. Under such circumstances, the contras prefer to accept a political agreement with the representatives of the Nicaraguan revolution which is likely to gain the support of the U.S. Congress and of the new U.S. administration, regardless of whether it will be a Democratic or a Republican one. This is how they intend to pass from military confrontation to political negotiations, in the hope that they will continue to be financially supported, albeit under the conditions of the new requirement imposed on them by the new U.S. administration and the Congress.

Certain units exist within the ranks of the counterrevolutionary organization itself, (such as the former Colonel Bermudez, a member of the Somoza guard) which, on account of Somoza views, do not approve of the peace agreements. They are ready to pursue the war, relying on the support of the most reactionary circles of the present U.S. Government in the hope of obtaining new military assistance.

[Koralov] A dialogue is being conducted in Managua between the Sandinist Front and other political parties. What is the goal of this dialogue, and what results do you expect from it? Is it possible to establish a united front of all patriotic forces in Nicaragua, such as the one described by Georgi Dimitrov in 1934?

[Ortega] It is actually our goal to create a joint patriotic front in Nicaragua such as the one proposed by Dimitrov. However, considerable differences exist in the stands of the political parties that belong to the opposition. Some of them are extremist and unpatriotic, loyal to imperialism, while others have adopted more moderate views and show greater readiness to establish an active, patriotic front. The national dialogue which is being conducted in Managua is aimed at organizing a national, patriotic front, consisting of progressive movements and parties.

[Koralov] There is much talk about political pluralism and the development of a mixed economy in your country. What are your plans in case an agreement on ceasing military operations is signed?

[Ortega] The final cease-fire which will bring peace to Nicaragua would enable us to implement the economic programs we have mapped out and which are now stagnating. This pertains to all branches of our economy. In the agricultural sector, the small- and medium-size farmers and even the large land owners have the opportunity to participate and are even already participating in the implementation of economic programs, but they are harmed by the aggressive policy of the United States. In the near future, we will know if Washington will lift or pursue the economic embargo against Nicaragua. If the embargo is pursued, this will inflict new harm on the whole of Nicaraguan society, regardless of the political and ideological stands of the individual producers.

As far as political pluralism is concerned, an important, unresolved question exists, connected with the search for similar positions among the different political forces in the country in defense of the national interests and for the achievement of peace. The local elections are another important task facing the political forces in our country. They all have the opportunity of participating in these elections. The Sandinist Front is not afraid of measuring its strength with other parties, because we are convinced that the majority will support us. [passage omitted]

Comments on Solidarity

PA2007001588 Havana International Service in Spanish 2318 GMT 19 Jul 88

[Interview with President Daniel Ortega by Radio Havana correspondent Ezequiel Perez Martin in Managua; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Perez] We begin this year-long drive in solidarity with the struggle of Sandino's fatherland with exclusive statements to Radio Havana, Cuba, by President Daniel Ortega, who is here next to me in free Nicaragua. Commander, first of all, I would like you to give us your personal definition of the word solidarity, and please cite some examples, if possible.

[Ortega] Solidarity is something we have been receiving since before the Nicaraguan people's victory over Somoza's dictatorship. This is a solidarity people identify with when the cause is just. The people are the first ones to express their solidarity. In addition, when these peoples have legitimate governments, governments that truly identify with the people's feelings and interests, this solidarity also becomes evident through the governments.

I have to stress that regarding the Nicaraguan people's struggle, the solidarity of the Cuban people has been constant for years, even when Cuba was not free. Later on, Comrade Fidel brandished the banner of solidarity after the Cuban revolutionary victory.

[Perez] What does Nicaragua expect at this moment when, I believe, it needs more solidarity than ever? What does it expect from the Latin American countries?

[Ortega] We expect a more combative and belligerent attitude from Latin America, because not only Nicaraguan interests are at stake in terms of self-determination and independence. Latin American interests are also at stake. A blow to Nicaragua is a blow to Latin America and the Caribbean. A blow to Nicaragua is a blow to the struggle of the Latin American countries regarding the debt. A blow to Nicaragua is a blow to the Latin American countries that are fighting for a new kind of

economic and commercial relationship with the United States and the highly developed countries. Interests that go beyond Nicaraguan borders are at stake here.

[Perez] In the hours that I have been here, in your heroic country, I have heard a slogan, a slogan the people recite: The Sandinist struggle stays; Reagan goes. This is an undeniable truth. To what extent does this correspond with the solidarity received by the Sandinist revolution, which has been led by the FMLN for the past 9 years?

[Ortega] A people may have a great fighting disposition and spirit, but, logically, when there is solidarity and that solidarity is evident in moral and material terms, then the people's strength increases. The people can then resist and fight, even when fettered by great difficulties. That is the phenomenon of the Nicaraguan revolution. It is true the Reagan administration will be 8 years old, but I am convinced that Reagan will go and the Sandinist revolution will stay.

[Perez] Commander, in conclusion, you are now in contact with millions of Latin American listeners through Radio Havana, Cuba, which, as I said, is today beginning a year-long drive for solidarity with your country. I would like you to give a final message to the Latin American people. Our microphones are at your service.

[Ortega] My greetings to the Latin American and Caribbean people, particularly the Cuban people, who are commemorating the 35th anniversary of the Moncada Barracks attack and the 30th anniversary of their revolution on 1 January. We send a combative greeting from the Nicaraguan people to the peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean. Let us become more united during this historic time in which we are living. This is a time when it is being proven that nations, regardless of how small they are, can succeed, become free, and resist, even when they face powerful forces such as the United States of America.

[Perez] Thanks to President Ortega for his exclusive statements to Radio Havana, Cuba.

Bermudez on Election as RN Directorate Member

PA1907152888 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0712 GMT 19 Jul 88

[Text] Santo Domingo, 18 Jul (EFE)—Today the second annual meeting of the Nicaraguan Resistance [RN] elected by majority vote and by acclamation its military chief, Colonel Enrique Bermudez, as a member of its Directorate.

Bermudez announced that he will work to strengthen unity and the fighting spirit "and to struggle against the Marxist-Leninist enemy, which wants to consolidate itself within our country, a hard battle with a strong army and a well-structured political front."

"Let the Sandinists be the ones to decide the path to be taken: peace and democracy, or war until Nicaragua is free," Bermudez said. The results of the election were 44 votes in favor, 2 against, and 3 abstentions. He was publicly rejected by the business bloc, which refused to vote.

The blocs which voted were: the Southern Opposition Bloc, the conservatives, the Atlantic sector, the labor sector, the liberals, the Christian Democrats, and the Social Democrats.

The 54 delegates continue sessions today with the election of the other six members of the Directorate, including its director.

Bermudez said that he could not control his emotions, because he was very pleased and proud with his free and democratic election.

He confirmed his commitment to Nicaragua and Nicaraguans, saying: "I am not moved by the desire to be the director or to hold another position, but by the desire to contribute to unity, to try to better serve the interests of the resistance movement and Nicaraguans."

"With my presence on the Directorate, I hope that unity and cohesion will be strengthened, that strategies and determination will be strengthened, and that we will unite around a single objective, which is the liberation of Nicaragua and democracy in Nicaragua," he said.

He added that he wants to respond to the combatants, "to fulfill a responsibility to those who gave up their lives at the fatherland's altar, to the combatants who today are an example of sacrifice and patriotism for all of us."

Southern Front Withdraws

PA2007025588 Paris AFP in Spanish 0225 GMT 20 Jul 88

[Text] San Jose, 19 Jul (AFP)—Today the guerrillas of the so-called Nicaraguan Resistance (RN) were divided when the self-styled "Southern Front" suddenly announced its withdrawal from the organization as a protest of the inclusion of Colonel Enrique Bermudez in the contras' new political Directorate, which was elected yesterday in Santo Domingo.

The seven guerrilla commanders who compose the Southern Front's general staff asserted in a press communique that the election of Bermudez, "a colonel of the much-hated Somozist National Guard," in the RN Directorate reflects "a turn to the far right," which is unacceptable to its 2,700 fighters.

The Southern Front is led by and mostly composed of former fighters of the extinct Democratic Revolutionary Alliance (ARDE), which was led by Eden Pastora (Commander Cero) until May 1986.

Opposition Leader on Meeting With Arias

PA1907222088 Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 0400 GMT 19 Jul 88

[Statement by Jorge Ramirez Acevedo, vice president of the Nicaraguan Liberal Party; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] Our visit to Costa Rica was the result of a request we made to meet with President Arias to explain the national opposition's situation. I believe the meeting was quite successful because each representative was allowed to express his views and concerns about the national situation, focusing on the need to refer to the Esquipulas II agreements as an efficient means of resolving the Nicaraguan conflict.

Due to the delegation's size, the meeting was held at President Arias' residence. President Arias listened to each and every one of us for over 3 hours. He was impressed, he said, because our presence reflected the national civic opposition's true feelings, including the need to fulfill the demands made of Nicaragua in the Esquipulas II agreements. Arias said that our presence proved that the opposition is a living force that can give him the moral support that, as president, he has never received, even from his own people. Since we demonstrated that ours is an attitude of civic opposition as opposed to armed opposition, President Arias said he would now be able to ask all the democratic organizations to contribute to the resolution of Nicaragua's problems. We believe the trip was a success because civic, peaceful opposition is the only way to achieve democracy in Nicaragua. This was one of the main issues considered in the Esquipulas II agreements.

President Arias asked us to return the following day to meet with his secretary and foreign minister and to continue our discussion, but we felt that our initial meeting had been sufficient. We also held a press conference at the Ambassador Hotel, and many of us made statements afterward. This was followed by an interview on Channel 7. The Nicaraguan opposition's presence was meant to be an open display, because as Nicaraguans we have every right to demand democracy. While some opposition members at home have judged and sentenced us, we believe that in Nicaragua we must use civic courage to demand our rights. If we fail to exercise our rights in Nicaragua and abroad, we will fail to express our values and importance as men and Nicaraguan citizens.

Unfortunately, the current authorities are taking strong action against the opposition, which is clearly reflected in the prison sentences that have been imposed. Moreover, recent statements by Interior Minister Tomas Borge reflect the intimate relationship that exists between the ruling party's leaders and the government, in total violation of the constitutional principle of separation of party and government, which reflects the illegitimacy of the 1984 elections.

Cambodian Leader Meets Ortegas, Receives Medal

BK1907143988 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 1300 GMT 19 Jul 88

[Text] According to foreign news sources, on 16 July in Managua, capital of the Republic of Nicaragua, a high-ranking delegation of the PRK party and state led by Comrade Heng Samrin, general secretary of the KPRP [Kampuchean People's Revolutionary Party] Central Committee and chairman of the PRK Council of State, attended a meeting to mark the 9th anniversary of agrarian reform day in Tisma.

Speaking on that occasion, Comrade Commander (Shambilok) praised Comrade Chairman Heng Samrin for his good deeds in the struggle against colonialism and imperialism, thus saving the Cambodian people from the Pol Pot genocidal danger.

Also during that solemn ceremony, Comrade President Daniel Ortega conferred the highest Ausgusto Cesar Sandino Order on Comrade Heng Samrin before the broad masses and a large number of foreign journalists.

On the same day, the high-ranking PRK party and state delegation held talks with Comrade Commander Humberto Ortega, Nicaraguan minister of national defense, during which the two sides exchanged views regarding each country's military situation and experiences.

Panama

'Illegal' PCC Meeting in U.S. Denounced

PA1907233288 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1645 GMT 19 Jul 88

[Text] The National Information System's (SNI) news bulletin published an article about how the U.S. members of the [Board of Directors] of the Panama Canal Commission [PCC] held a meeting in Savannah, Georgia, without the Panamanian commissioners. The article noted that the meeting was scheduled to take place in Panama and that its transfer to the United States was a clear violation of PCC regulations.

The SNI also noted that PCC President William Gianelli had the insolence to claim that the Panamanian Government had tried to stop the meeting. Panama, however, had previously announced that its commissioners were not going to attend the Georgia meeting. The article adds that Gianelli, arrogantly and irresponsibly, had also stated that the United States was going to operate the canal with or without Panama's participation. The SNI report also noted that Panamanian officials had stated from the beginning that if the PCC meeting was transferred to the United States, this action would be considered both whimsical and illegal. It was also reported that U.S. officials, in order to ensure and force their absence, refused to grant visas to Panamanian advisers and officials who always attend the meetings.

The SNI bulletin also reported the U.S. Administration's wicked intention to have pseudo-Ambassador Juan Sosa attend the PCC meeting. Only the United States recognizes this man as the Panamanian ambassador to the United States. Sosa's presence—he did in fact attend the meeting—at the PCC meeting would have been reason enough for the Panamanian delegates to leave the meeting had they attended it.

Pointing out that this is another open and very serious violation by the United States of the Torrijos-Carter treaties, to which Panama has always strictly complied, the SNI alerted the national and international community to this action.

U.S. 'Reportedly Preparing' Military Actions

PA2007011188 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2300 GMT 19 Jul 88

[Text] The United States is reportedly preparing to carry out military actions from its military bases in Panama, according to reports by the Associated Press, a U.S. news agency, and THE TROPIC TIMES, a publication of the Southern Command.

The reports say that 300 vehicles have been sent to the Southern Command and that generators will be set up to supply power for all Southern Command installations in the event of an outage.

The same edition of THE TROPIC TIMES points out statements made by area commander General Fred Woerner, who emphasized the role of the U.S. Army in preserving democracy in Latin America.

Juan Sosa Says Delvalle Returned From U.S.

PA1907230188 Paris AFP in Spanish 2234 GMT 19 Jul 88

[Excerpts] Washington, 19 Jul (AFP)—Today Eric Arturo Delvalle, who still considers himself Panama's president and is recognized as such by President Ronald Reagan's government, returned to his country after a "private" 9-day visit to the United States, Juan Sosa, Delvalle's ambassador to Washington, has reported. [passage omitted]

Sosa, who continues to be loyal to Delvalle, stressed that the president returned within the 10-day limit that a president has to leave the country without consultuation or previous authorization from the Legislative Assembly in accordance with the Constitution.

Delvalle went to the United States for medical examinations described as "routine," but he took advantage of his visit to meet with several political leaders and received a telephone call from President Reagan, who "reiterated his full support [words indistinct] democratic system," Sosa said.

Delvalle also met with New York Republican Senator Alfonse D'Amato, who "assured Delvalle that the U.S. Congress will approve the aid to rehabilitate Panama's economy after Noriega leaves," the diplomat added.

Molirena on Electoral Law Reform Bill Debates

PA1807230488 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 18 Jul 88 p A-7

[Communique issued by the Nationalist Liberal Republican Movement (Molirena) in Panama City on 15 July]

[Text] Molirena

"Unity, Democracy, and Liberty"

Molirena, through its Board of Directors, has decided to authorize its parliamentary representation to attend the special Legislative Assembly sessions so they can be informed and make decisions regarding the electoral law reform bill that is to be sent to the executive branch. Molirena's parliamentary representation is composed of the Honorable Legislators Jorge Ruben Rosas, Jaime Fernandez, and Justo Cortez.

With this decision, Molirena does nothing more than continue its permament and patriotic struggle in the legislative forum to establish a truly democratic and legal government—a government that will help to free the country from the chaos and apathy brought about by 20 years of a dictatorial and militarist government.

Molirena believes no electoral law can be better or worse than the people in charge of interpreting and applying it. Molirena also believes the Panamanian electoral problem is not caused by the laws that regulate the electoral process but by the yielding and accommodating behavior of those who distort and adulterate the law to perpetuate a state of affairs the country undoubtedly repudiates.

Molirena's participation in the special sessions of the Legislative Assembly does not have the intention or goal of creating the false image that the country is confidently and casually walking toward the honest and peaceful elections all Panamanians need and demand. Molirena will participate in the special sessions to denounce—as it always has—the lack of freedom, the evident bias of the Electoral Tribunal magistrates, the illegal use of public funds, the government's lack of money, the government sector's desire to continue in power, the illegal closing of any media that does not favor the government, and other similar issues. If they are not corrected, with patriotism and good faith, these issues will keep the country from finding in the upcoming elections the democratic solution it requires. Instead, these issues will lead us to a new electoral farce. Molirena is not, and never will be, willing to participate in the staging of an electoral farce.

Panama, 15 July 1988

Molirena

Alfredo Ramirez, President; Luis Guillermo Casco Arias, Secretary General

Opposition Parties To Attend Assembly Sessions

PA1907122388 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 18 Jul 88

[Text] The only two opposition political parties that will participate in the special legislative sessions are the Nationalist Republican Liberal Movement [Molirena] and the Christian Democratic Party [PDC]. Guillermo Ford of the Molirena National Directorate and Raul Ossa, coordinator of the PDC legislative faction, will now tell us about their parties' participation in the special legislative sessions for discussing reforms to the electoral law.

[Begin recording] [Ford] First, the Molirena Board of Directors unanimously decided that the three legislators from our party will actively participate in the special sessions of the Assembly because we think it is necessary that there is a balance, a dissident voice in the articles to be amended. We also think it is the responsibility of our legislators to tell the Panamanian people exactly how our party, which is in the opposition, feels. At no time does the participation of our distinguished three legislators mean that Molirena accepts participating in the elections, because we feel—and we have repeatedly said so—that the necessary minimum conditions are not proper for any opposition party to participate in the elections.

[Reporter] Would your party participate in the elections if they were held in fact in 1989 and after the amendments have been made to the Electoral Code?

[Ford] I think the Molirena communique published in today's edition of LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA is quite clear. Numerous modifications made to the Electoral Code will not give the elections the seriousness and the necessary minimum conditions that will guarantee that those elections are free and honest and that the winners' victory will be recognized. The important thing is that a series of structures be modified, including the Electoral Tribunal and other structures of the national government; above all, changes must be made concerning the men who are leading those structures, because they do not enjoy the credibility of the Panamanian people. [end recording]

Meanwhile, Raul Ossa, coordinator of the PDC legislative faction, said the following:

[Begin Ossa recording] In no way can our participation be interpreted as an endorsement of the government actions. The national government has been saying the crisis can be solved through the 1989 elections. Meanwhile, it keeps the media closed. It does nothing to improve the deteriorated image of the magistrates of the Electoral Tribunal and many of its officials. It also does nothing to improve the image of the Supreme Court of Justice, the Attorney General's Office, and others. It does not abstain from persecuting our political leaders, from sending people into exile, from creating conditions so Panamanians can feel like there is a democratic atmosphere in our country.

Therefore, we have come to the special legislative sessions to reaffirm our determination to struggle for democracy and to improve life in Panamanian society. We cannot allow a discussion about the rules of the democratic game or on democratic conditions while we are absent. We are the voice of the critical conscience of the Panamanian nation, and we are going to make a point of that as of this date. [end recording]

Businessmen Oppose 'Radical Economic Changes'

PA2007023088 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 19 Jul 88

[Text] The Panamanian Chamber of Commerce, Industries, and Agriculture and the Trade Union of Panamanian Industrialists [SIP] have released a joint communique. Rafael Zuniga and Carlos Valencia provide details on the communique:

[Begin recording] [Zuniga] Recently we have noticed the appearance of proposals coming from official sources and sources close to the regime that could affect the Panamanian business and industrial sectors. The Panamanian Chamber of Commerce, Industries, and Agriculture and SIP believe it is time for them to express their common views to the Panamanian people on these proposals.

First, we must point out that such plans or proposals would neither promote the country's economic recovery nor create more jobs. These proposals are designed to take people's minds off the country's basic problem, which is an eminently political problem that has caused all the current economic, financial, and fiscal problems. The seriousness of the worst political and economic crisis ever experienced in Panama clearly shows that this is the least appropriate time to propose or try to introduce radical economic changes. Moderation, common sense, and love for our homeland must lead all Panamanians to dedicate our best efforts to achieve peace, justice, freedom, and a true democratic regime that will restore investors' and Panamanian citizens' trust and faith in the public institutions.

Finally, we want to warn the authorities that they must not fall into the illusion or make the mistake of replacing consultations with the associations that really represent and benefit the Panamanian majorities with consultations with certain individuals, who could be motivated by personal interests not connected to the legitimate interests of the Panamanian community in general.

[Valencia] Recently we have heard statements of several kinds, ranging from suspending imports to turning the whole country into a duty-free zone, as well as other types of proposals, which would definitely introduce a radical change in the country's economic policy. We are referring to that kind of change and to any other change that would try to radically alter our country's economic orientation.

Through our communique, we basically want to state that our two associations agree that the roots and basis of the current national crisis is a political problem and that the crisis cannot be resolved with economic measures unless the political problem is resolved first. [end recording]

Argentina

Satellite Technology Being Sent to Egypt

PY1907180388 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1559 GMT 19 Jul 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 19 Jul (TELAM)—Today a qualified Defense Ministry spokesman said that Argentina is transferring technology pertaining to the placement of satellites in orbit to Egypt, and he stated that this agreement has now been in force for approximately 2 years.

Asked by TELAM about the report that was disseminated by international press agencies indicating that Argentina had presumably signed an agreement with Egypt and Iraq to manufacture a medium-range missile, the spokesman answered negatively.

This technology is not being transferred to Iraq. Argentina is not trading in this field with Iraq, the spokesman finally said.

The report in this week's issue of U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT says that Argentina has signed an agreement with Iraq and Egypt to manufacture a missile that has a range sufficient to reach the Malvinas Islands.

The U.S. magazine also states that the project, which is called Condor II, goes back to 1982, just after the Argentine-British conflict over the Malvinas.

The magazine cites Asian sources as the originators of the information, and it stresses that some FRG, Italian, French, and British firms are also interested in the project.

Government Satisfied With Iran-Iraq Truce

PY1907232888 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2305 GMT 19 Jul 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 19 Jul (NA)—The Argentine Government today expressed its "deep satisfaction" at the acceptance by Iran and Iraq of the battlefront truce in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution 598. The government hopes that the two countries can find "a just, honorable, and lasting solution" to their differences.

The government released a communique through the Foreign Ministry stating that "it trusts that the continuous efforts of UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar to find peaceful solutions to international conflicts will contribute to the consolidation international peace and security."

PRC Wants To Increase Sugar Purchases

PY1907114188 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 0108 GMT 19 Jul 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 18 Jul (NA)—The Regional Development Secretariat reported that the PRC has informed the Argentine Government that it wants to increase its imports of Argentine sugar from 90,000 to 120,000 tons per year during the 1989-91 3-year period.

The PRC's interest was expressed during a meeting in which Chinese representatives discussed with Argentine authorities the types of sugar required and the guidelines for setting prices, in accordance with the agreement that was signed between the two countries.

The Argentine delegation was headed by Regional Development Secretary Ruben Chevaia, who told his visitors that an eventual increase in sugar exports must be negotiated with the participation of delegates from the sugar producing sector.

Regional Development Under Secretary Ricardo Entrena and Liu Xinghua and Jian Jun of the China National Cereals, Oils, and Foodstuffs Import and Export Corporation [name of the corporation given in English] also participated in the meeting.

Menem on Military Amnesty, Reform, Falklands

PY1907235988 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 19 Jul 88 p 11

[Excerpt] (NA-DYN)—Justicialist presidential candidate Carlos Menem ruled out the possibility of granting amnesty to military high-ranking officers sentenced for human rights violations; expressed his position in favour of constitutional reform; proposed an injunction on all British Crown property in Argentina; and promised to reactivate the Fabricaciones Militares military-industrial complex.

Menem issued this statement from Paris and Madrid, where he was contacted by various press media while on a relaxation tour through Europe.

The La Rioja governor's election as presidential candidate for his party has added considerably to interest in his opinions both here and abroad where there is a certain distrust in his democratic commitment.

In an interview published on Sunday by the Madrid daily DIARIO 16, Menem said he was in favour of "a strict enforcement of the law," and ratified his wish for human rights to be respected under all circumstances.

"The only one who can pardon is God, so I do not accept either the final stop or the due obedience laws or any sort of amnesty," he pointed out.

Meanwhile, the local daily CLARIN published yesterday an interview with the Peronist leader in Paris, in which Menem proposed constitutional reform which would eliminate the Electoral College, shorten the presidential term to four years, and admit one re-election. He also accepted that the polls to choose constituent assembly delegates "could take place together with the presidential elections," thus indirectly ruling out the possibility of reform before the new president takes office next year.

Regarding the foreign debt, Menem repeated that the final decision must be made by Congress, although he anticipated that he would ask for a five-year grace period, "because with these funds we will grow."

He also referred to the Malvinas problem, where he proposed to respond to alleged British "overfishing" in the South Atlantic with an injucntion on all British Crown property in the country "and especially in Patagonia."

The local daily AMBITO FINANCIERO in turn disclosed that Menem had lunch yesterday with the businesswoman Amalia Lacroze de Fortabat in Athens. [passage omitted]

Mexican Deputy Minister on Debt, Other Issues

PY1907031288 Buenos Aires Argentina Televisora Color Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 18 Jul 88

[Excerpt] Mexican Deputy Foreign Minister Manuel Rodriguez Arriaga is visiting ther country. He is here to participate in a meeting to review and assess the cooperation agreements in the education sector signed in Acapulco between Presidents Alfonsin and De la Madrid in 1987. The Mexican deputy foreign minister discussed his official mission and the current Mexican situation.

[Begin recording in progress] ...a positive evaluation of the work carried out by Argentina and Mexico. We are not fully satisfied. We feel that there are political, intellectual, and cultural fields which are appropriate for cooperation and exchange, fields which have not yet been fully exploited. But if we judge the results over the past 3 years, namely in 1986 and 1987, and the first half of 1988, we can say that the level of fulfillment of the agreements is higher. I know that both Argentine and Mexican officials agree on this. [end recording]

Asked about the relationship between the Latin American foreign debt and the meeting of developed countries' leaders held in Toronto, he stated:

[Begin recording] We are not fully satisfied about the manner in which the international community has been treating this matter. This is a problem which requires a more profound analysis of the political proposals in this sector. We also think the governments must have more resolute participation in discussing this problem. This is what we have proposed, and governments such as that of the United States, and of other countries who are members of what we call the group of creditors, should also seek an international economic system revitalized by a greater economic growth with a greater capacity for redistribution of resources, and with a greater capacity to respond to the just demands of Latin American societies. [end recording]

Rodriguez also answered a question about the possibility of greater and closer understanding among debtor countries:

[Begin recording] Our governments must adopt a better and more firm position regarding dialogue among our own countries to discuss this common problem, which is a great challenge for our societies, and also regarding the dialogue with our creditors. [end recording]

[Unidentified reporter] Remarks made by Peruvian President Alan Garcia that Mexico and Argentina have reportedly abandoned Peru regarding the foreign debt were denied here in Argentina. How were they taken in Mexico?

[Rodriguez] Argentina and Mexico, and I would say that in general, all governments that have been participating in meetings of the Consensus of Cartagena and of the Group of Eight, two different groups that have included the foreign debt issue in their agendas, have performed, in our opinion, not only responsibly, but also with solidarity. In Mexico, the government has no doubt whatsoever about this. We think there is full solidarity among our governments. But there are also signs of maturity. It is not enough to talk about responsibility alone. We must also refer to political maturity. These are governments with democratic feelings, with foreign policies which have an important political scope. This maturity allows no room for situations in which responsibility and solidarity with other countries will be banned. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Rio Negro Province Unaware of Nuclear Study

PY1907190788 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1539 GMT 19 Jul 88

[Text] Viedma, 19 Jul (TELAM)—Sources of the government of Rio Negro Province have said that they are not officially aware of studies being conducted by the National Commission for Atomic Energy [CNEA] to build a radio active nuclear waste deposit in the La Esperanza and Chasico zone, in the central region of the province.

Information on the existence of the CNEA study was published by the Rio Negro daily last weekend. This issue was discussed by Governor Horacio Massaccessi, and his cabinet.

Bautista Mendioroz, Rio Negro Province minister of natural resources, said that his government will ask the CNEA about the study as well as the technical details that would justify the need for a waste deposit.

The La Esperanza and Chasico zones are located in the central region of the province, about 500 km in straight line from Viedma, and 300 km from Alto Valle. The

landscape is typical of the Patagonia region, undlating with rocky soil, and stunted vegetation. The zone has very low population; sheep are raised here.

Three Alleged Chilean Leftists Arrested

PY1807175788 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1502 GMT 18 Jul 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 18 Jul (NA)—On 19 Jul San Isidro Federal Judge Alberto Daniel Piotti will hear the testimony of the three Chilean citizens who were arrested over the weekend while transporting heavy caliber weapons, grenades, and allegedly extreme leftist books inside a vehicle.

The Chileans were arrested early on the morning of 17 July on National Highway 9. They were traveling in a late model grey colored Ford Sierra car with license No C 1,285,251.

During the operation, which was handled by police personnel from Escobar police station, it was found that the foreigners had falsified Argentine identity cards and car registration.

Heavy caliber weapons and two grenades were found in the car. This materiel is now being inspected to verify its origin.

The three persons also had a large amount of dollars and australes, and Marxist-Leninist books, which makes the police suspect that they are members of a Chilean political cell that has connections with other groups inside our country.

On 19 July the Chileans will be taken to the San Isidro Federal Court, where Judge Piotti will hear their testimony on their operations in Argentina.

Bolivia

Minister To Negotiate Purchase of Foreign Debt

PY1907140288 La Paz Radio Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 19 Jul 88

[Text] Energy and Hydrocarbons Minister Fernando Illanes will leave for the United States to negotiate the purchase of approximately $500 million of the Bolivian foreign debt.

Planning and Coordination Minister Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada said that specific instructions were given to Illanes to convince the creditors to accept 25-year bonds in keeping with Decree No 21,060 [not further identified].

Sanchez de Lozada added that these negotiations are important for the country because reaching agreements before the end of the year will be a significant step forward.

Briefs

Monetary Reserves Increase

Finance Minister Juan Cariaga has stated that Bolivian monetary reserves have increased by $40 million during the last few months. Cariaga said that this increase has allowed the reduction of domestic credits by over $100 million and has improved the foreign currency balance—money issuance ratio. The rate of issuance of money is currently lower than it was in December 1987. He added that the July inflation rate was 10 percent due to the increase of oil prices in April. [Excerpts] [*PY1907235488 La Paz Radio Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 19 Jul 88*]

Brazil

Sarney, USSR Envoy Discuss Relations, Visit

PY2007004488 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 19 Jul 88

[Text] President Jose Sarney's visit to the Soviet Union in October and Brazilian-Soviet relations were the main topics of discussions during the meeting held today between the president and Soviet Ambassador Viktor Isakov.

At the end of the meeting ambassador Isakov spoke with the media:

[Begin recording] We talked about my activities here in Brazil, his upcoming visit to the Soviet Union, the current state of Brazilian-Soviet relations, which are good. This was a very, very pleasant meeting. I was very honored to be received by the president of the Republic. [end recording]

President Jose Sarney is scheduled to visit the Soviet Union 17-21 October.

$500-Million Bridge Loan Announced

PY2007023188 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0127 GMT 20 Jul 88

[Text] Paris, 19 Jul (EFE)—Today Brazilian Finance Minister Mailson da Nobrega announced in this capital that Brazil has obtained a $500-million bridge loan from the Bank for International Settlements (BIS), to cover interest on the Brazilian foreign debt.

The bridge loan granted by the BIS will allow Brazil to cover immediate debts until the first disbursement is made of the $5.2-billion loan granted to Brazil by private creditor banks, according to a recent agreement signed in New York.

The BIS gathers the Central Banks of the industrialized countries; the loan granted to Brazil is endorsed by the U.S. Treasury, the French, British, and FRG Central Banks.

A communique released in Washington by the U.S. Treasury announces that President Ronald Reagan's administration has decided to cover nearly half of the loan the international banking community gave to Brazil.

This loan represents favorable conditions for Brazil, since the most influencial BIS members will be the main speakers for Brazil during the talks that will start on 28 July to refinance the Brazilian debt with the Paris Club.

During these negotiations, Brazil wishes to obtain a 10-year grace period for its debt principal and the consolidation of the interests that will fall due in 1989. Such conditions—which are better than the ones obtained by Mexico and Argentina—have been described as pretentious by French authorities.

If the Paris Club agrees to these conditions, Brazil will thus conclude a financial and historical phase that began in February 1987 when the Brazilian Government declared a moratorium on its foreign debt payments.

In his current visit to Europe, Finance Minister Mailson da Nobrega has guaranteed that President Jose Sarney is willing to maintain the current policy which represents a 180-degree turn on the strategy followed by the previous finance ministers.

U.S. To Participate

PY2007003788 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 19 Jul 88

[Text] The United States has agreed to participate in a $500-million bridge loan to Brazil to cover foreign debt interests that have come due during June and July. This announcement was made this evening by the Finance Ministry through an official communique.

The communique also states that the Bank for International Settlements will also contribute to the bridge loan, which is being endorsed by several Central Banks.

The Finance Ministry communique states that the U.S. participation in this joint effort is a sign of its support for the Brazilian economic reforms in the 1988-89 financial program.

Sarney, PFL Leaders Deny Price Freeze Rumors

PY1907025488 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 18 Jul 88

[By reporter Irienu Tamanini from Alvorada Palace]

[Text] Today President Jose Sarney guaranteed government leaders in Congress that the administration is not considering declaring a new price freeze despite that [words indistinct] has surpassed 20 percent. The president met with congressional government leaders in Alvorada Palace today.

The administration understands that this month's inflation peak was a routine occurrence. Senator Marcondes Gadelha, PFL leader in the Senate, recalled that the expenditure control policy is correct, and that the public deficit will be restricted to 4 percent of the GDP, a fact that will directly affect inflation.

[Begin recording] [Tamanini] Senator Marcondes Gadelha, is the government considering declaring a price freeze again?

[Marcondes Gadelha] No, not at all. No ministry is thinking of that. A price freeze is not a government goal, not even considering this recent inflation peak. The government considers the inflation peak to be a routine fact. The government's economic strategy is correct, and the causes of inflation and not its effects must be controlled. This means the government must reduce the public deficit. The government will not yield in this policy.

The government believes it is achieving its goals because budget expenditures are being controlled within the foreseen limits. The public deficit will reach 4 percent of the GDP by 1989. This will allow the government to curb inflation. [end recording]

Deputy Jose Lourenco, PFL leader in the Chamber of Deputies, also ruled out a possible price freeze:

[Begin recording] [words indistinct] We will continue with the policy of controlling public expenditures. No unorthodox kind of measure will be adopted, I can assure you that. We will keep strictly to the rice and bean policy until the end of the year. [end recording]

The goal for next year will be to reduce the public deficit to 2 percent of the GDP.

Costa Rican Foreign Minister Begins 2-Day Visit

PY1907024488 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 18 Jul 88

[Excerpts] Today Costa Rican Foreign Minister Rodrigo Madrigal Nieto arrived in Brasilia for a 2-day visit.

During his stay in the country, Madrigal Nieto will sign several technical cooperation agreements with Brazil, particularly in the electricity field. [passage omitted]

In the political field, Madrigal Nieto will discuss the Latin American and Caribbean integration program during his talks with President Sarney and Foreign Minister Abreu Sodre. Brazil, for example, supports the reintegration of Cuba into the inter-American system, while Costa Rica's stance is similar to that of the United States.

President Jose Sarney will receive the Costa Rican guest this evening.

Comments on Relations

PA1907144488 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 19 Jul 88

[Text] Brasilia—Costa Rican Foreign Minister Rodrigo Madrigal Nieto has begun a 2-day official visit to Brazil, where he will hold working meetings with his Brazilian counterpart Roberto de Abreu Sodre and meet with Brazilian President Jose Sarney.

Madrigal Nieto arrived in Rio de Janeiro, where he was honored by members of the Brazil - Costa Rica Institute, which was created in 1986 to promote cultural exchanges between the two countries.

According to diplomatic sources, Madrigal and Abreu Sobre will sign an energy cooperation agreement and will review the trade and cultural relations between the two countries.

On arrival in Rio de Janeiro, Madrigal said that bilateral relations have become closer in the past years. He added that Brazil has taken a more active role in the Central American situation, which is of great importance to Costa Rica.

Madrigal stressed that Brazil and Costa Rica have many things in common, as they share the foreign debt problem, and have signed bilateral, cultural and technical assistance agreements. He also noted that joint commissions will meet periodically to update the exchange agreements.

Meanwhile, Miguel Angel Campos, Costa Rica's ambassador to Brazil, said his country managed to refinance its debt with Brazil, which totals approximately $26 million.

Paraguayan Cocaine Connection Reported

PY2007003688 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 19 Jul 88 p 12

[Text] Campo Grande (Mato Grosso do Sul State)—Investigations regarding the cocaine traffic through the state of Mato Grosso do Sul, earmarked for Sao Paulo and Rio de Janeiro, reveal that more than 200 kg of the drug come every 15 days from Paraguay, where the Medellin Cartel has branches. Brazilian citizen Gerson Camata [as published] is responsible for all of these branches.

Palermo, 38, is facing a preventive arrest warrant in Parana State where he had actively participated in the ring headed by businessmen Gilberto Iannes, who died in 1984 in a plane crash in Paraguay. The plane was carrying 600 kg of cocaine.

Palermo's assistants are pilot Silvio Berre Lemos and his wife, Margot Jacqueline Velasques. They both live in Avirai, Mato Grosso do Sul, where they run a cocaine supply station from cocaine produced by Palermo in Paraguay.

The court has also signed a preventive arrest warrant against this couple who, in addition to participating in Paraguayan drug trafficking, are also closely related to criminal organizations, and with Bolivian trafficker Pepe Mendonca Uillar, who is considered to be the representative of Bolivian cocaine producer Roberto Suarez. Villar is reportedly in charge of carrying deals with drug purchasers in Campo Grande, Sao Paulo, and Rio de Janeiro.

In Campo Grande there are also those who finance the purchase of the Paraguayan cocaine, such as rancher Limerio de Almeida, 48, who is at large. A preventive arrest warrant has been signed against him by Federal Judge Luiz Calixto de Bastos.

'Mosaic 2' Nets Another Top Drug Trafficker

PY1907182588 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 1600 GMT 19 Jul 88

[Text] The Federal Police have arrested drug trafficker Paulo Martins Xavier, aka Paulinho da Matriz. He is the top drug dealer at the Matriz Hill in Rio de Janeiro. The arrest of Paulinho da Matriz is part of the "Mosaic 2" operation. The trafficker, who has lived in Florianopolis for 5 years, carried drugs from Santa Catarina to Rio de Janeiro.

Paulinho da Matriz is the 34th trafficker to be arrested during the "Mosaic 2" operation.

Chile

Pinochet Comments on Political Issues, U.S.

PY1907164788 Santiago LA TERCERA DE LA HORA in Spanish 10 Jul 88 pp 1, 2, 3 Sec II

["Exclusive" interview with President General Augusto Pinochet Ugarte by LA TERCERA DE LA HORA reporter Raul Rojas at La Moneda Palace—date not given]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] The Politicians [subhead]

[Rojas] Mr President, you have repeatedly said that the "same politicians" from the past are returning to the national political scenario. Does that mean that your government has failed to eradicate the famous characters of yesterday's politics and the vices and bad habits that were the characteristics of some of these politicians? Why do you always mention "honorable exceptions?" How many Chilean politicians are included in these "honorable exceptions?"

[Pinochet] I believe that there are still a group of politicians of another era who preserve their same vices. Nonetheless, the new Constitution actually corrects those defects. This is the reason why these politicians tend to underestimate the Constitution. When I mention these "honorable exceptions," I am referring to those politicians of another era who have a futuristic vision of our reality, and are aware that the old democracy has fallen apart, mostly as a result of too frequently employed demagogical measures.

[Rojas] Do you believe the Communist Party (PC) has become stronger under the current government?

[Pinochet] No, I do not think so. The current PC is much weaker than it was during the Popular Unity [UP] Government.

[Rojas] How would you classify the PC decision to support the No-vote, while continuing to accept other types of struggle?

[Pinochet] I believe it is consistant with the PC usual two-sided policy: On one hand, it fights in the political sphere; on the other hand, it takes part in the subversive, and open terrorist fight."

[Rojas] In your opinion, what is the main reason for the subversive escalade in the country?

[Pinochet] It originates from the persistent and stubborn attitude of the PC. They will never accept the fact that the Chilean people ousted them from power on 11 September 1983.

[Rojas] What do you think of the Manuel Rodriguez Patriotic Front (FPMR) announcement stating that it will continue to sponsor violence before, during, and after the plebiscite?

[Pinochet] This announcement did not surprise me. We know that international Marxism is behind the FPMR, and that it is always ready to violate the liberties of the peoples, and to promote class struggle, violence, and death.

[Rojas] When the PC announced its intention to support the No-vote, an independent politician commented that this decision represented the piece which was missing in the UP puzzle [preceding word in English], and added that, in this puzzle, the Christian Democratic Party (PDC) was a minority. Do you share this politician's opinion?

[Pinochet] Yes, it is true. The UP is again formed. If the PDC does not react in time, it will again be overcome by the Marxist sectors. [passage omitted]

No Fauds, No Knives [subhead]

[Rojas] How do you react to charges that there will be fraud in the plebiscite? Do you believe there will be institutional rupture if the No-vote wins? Although the opposition leaders deny this possibility, do you believe there will be a "night of the long knives" if the No-vote wins?

[Pinochet] Currently, there are laws that foresee and prevent the possibilities of fraud like those that existed in the past.

Regarding the announcements of the opposition, these announcements are not consistent because some are moderate and others propose separationist solutions. The opposition is making all these announcements and accusations anticipating the possibility of a No-vote victory.

[Rojas] Would you like to continue in power? Have you ever considered the possibility of staging a self-inflicted coup?

[Pinochet] I want to be very explicit about that! This country has a Constitution which will always be fully respected and the institutional process will faithfully follow what is established by the Articles of this Constitution.

Political Chicanery [subhead]

[Rojas] The title of one of your books is "Politics, Political Chicanery, and Demagoguery." Which of the three do you think is currently reigning in Chile?

[Pinochet] For many years, political chicanery and demagoguery reigned in Chile. The groups that caused the failure of the previous government continue to employ the same methods. Certain sectors, however, have changed the situation and want to follow a different political style, based on moral principles and pragmatism. They also want to serve the public selflessly.

[Rojas] What do you think of those who, as a result of the military coup, received privileges and favors and now criticize and reject our government?

[Pinochet] Unfortunately, certain sectors do not learn from their mistakes.

[Rojas] Do you think the majority of the Chilean people have forgotten the reasons and circumstances that forced the Armed Forces to oust the previous government?

[Pinochet] No, I do not. The problem is that a large portion of young people did not live through the tragic UP days when there was not government in this country, and their parents have not told them enough about the sad events they witnessed and experienced in those days.

Current National Crisis [subhead]

[Rojas] What do you say to those who claim that Chileans have suffered hunger, repression, torture, human rights violations, unemployment, and other tragic problems during the current government?

[Pinochet] Due to the Marxist regime, the country has experienced a crisis that caused a real economic, political, social, and moral collapse. It has been necessary to fight and change this situation. Therefore, the main sectors of national life were profoundly modernized. The education, health, employment, welfare, justice, and agriculture sectors underwent a modernization process, which was followed by an administrative reorganization that is serving as a model to other countries.

Regarding all the shortcomings you have mentioned, I would like to report the following: 1) In 1970, 40 percent of the fiscal budget was assigned to social expenses, while in 1986, 57 percent of fiscal money was assigned to social projects; 2) We have given the people more than 750,000 housing units; 3) Chile has been exporting its products to more than 100 countries, with which it has real ties; 4) Our spectacular development in the field of fruit production has yielded $500 million in 1987; 5) Our economic development is a reality, and it will give the Chilean people better and more numerous goods, and services.

[Rojas] Are you disappointed by the development of Chilean political activities?

[Pinochet] What disappoints me is seeing old politicians, who lack any imagination, pragmatism, and realism, sticking to the same schemes and practicing the same type of politics that lead to the collapse of Chilean democracy.

[Rojas] Why have you always refused to support the creation of a great party or movement that would support your regime?

[Pinochet] Because the government has always been and will continue to transcend party politics because it is concerned about all Chileans and not only a certain sector. Our great political party is Chile and its arms are open to all those people with whom we share this territory. We repudiate foreign intervention and the Marxist-Leninist trends.

International Opinion [subhead]

[Rojas] Have you stopped worrying about the international perception of your government? Could you openly discuss the U.S. attitude?

[Pinochet] In an anti-Chilean attitude, a large portion of the international opinion is preconceived and prejudiced. Thus, it is not a balanced, unprejudiced, and impartial view of our country.

Concerning the U.S. attitude, I have nothing to say because, as a rule and basic principle, I do not discuss U.S. internal affairs.

Nevertheless, we will always defend Chile's sovereignty to decide its own actions and, therefore, its own future. We will never allow any type of foreign intervention.

[Rojas] How do you feel about foreign participation in Chilean politics through donations or contributions.

[Pinochet] I think that those who accept foreign intervention in matters to be decided by the Chilean people lose their dignity. Some day they will be held accountable for their anti-Chilean attitude, an attitude of international beggars.

[Rojas] Is the Constitution the most appropriate way to safeguard the country's future? What do you think of those who claim that this Constitution was drawn up to perpetuate the current regime in power?

[Pinochet] The Constitution that was approved by a vast majority in 1980 corrects the shortcomings of the 1925 Constitution, shortcomings that, to a large extent, have caused a political, economic, social, and moral collapse under the Marxist regime.

If a new institutional process was not conceived, we do doubt whether we would have returned to the same state of affairs prevailing before 10 September 1973.

Now then, in the upcoming plebiscite, the people will freely choose between two alternatives. Thus, I do not think the Constitution has been intended to perpetuate the government in power.

Chile's Dilemma [subhead]

[Rojas] What is Chile's dilemma? Democracy of dictatorship? Democracy or chaos promoted by the left? Democracy or an orderly and free change?

[Pinochet] Chile's dilemma today is to choose between, on one hand, progressing toward a full democratic institutionalization, with broad political, economic, social, and cultural freedom, involving a stable regime that will permit us to view our future as an industrialized nation. Or, on the other hand, to choose the opposition's proposal, involving a severe step backwards and a return to the retardant and statist schemes that led us into Marxist socialism in the past. In this regard, we must not overlook the fact that the divisive and revolutionary characteristics intended for the "no" vote alternative will involve the country, if the "no" vote wins, in a situation of unpredictable consequences.

The Word Given [subhead]

[Rojas] Have the Armed Forces and the forces of order definitely given their word that the plebiscite's outcome will be respected, regardless of the outcome?

[Pinochet] Yes, of course. The plebiscite's outcome will be respected as will the established constitutional laws for either a "yes" vote victory or a hypothetical "no" vote victory.

Defense Minister on Plebiscite, Military

PY1907161988 Santiago LA TERCERA DE LA HORA in Spanish 11 Jul 88 p 8

[Interview with Defense Minister Vice Admiral Patricio Carvajal by Patricia Escalona—date and place not given]

[Excerpts] Escalona: The participation of government officials in the campaign for the yes-vote has been criticized.

Carvajal: While the committee led by Sergio Molina and the Genaro Arriagada-led Command for the No-vote are parceling out the $1-million fund given by the NED [National Endownment for Democracy], Patricio Aylwin, who is the spokesman for the parties that received this foreign aid, has taken the liberty of demanding that the interior minister impose equitable rules for the plebiscite. In addition, Aylwin has dared to criticize the works that the government has dedicated. In order to properly compare what we do and what other countries are doing, I will mention some of the outstanding examples of democracy that are taking place in the United States, where an electoral campaign is also underway.

The U.S. President and Vice President are engaged in a presidential campaign. Consequently, why should Chilean authorities who dedicate works of progress be criticized?

Escalona: Yet there are charges that Armed Forces members are working for the yes-vote despite the fact that the Armed Forces have never been openly engaged in politics.

Carvajal: It is totally logical and appropriate for officials who discharge duties outside the Armed Forces, like ministers, intendants, governors, and mayors to do what they are doing. The intendant's office is a political position. This is beyond question, and whoever holds this position must perform and speak in a political manner.

Escalona: Is it right to do that?

Carvajal: It is right for them to do this in their positions. We should not forget that this is a military government and that several officers are discharging political duties. Virtually all governments have military officials. We should recall that even under the UP [Popular Unity] administration, Allende emphasized that there must be military ministers, and they logically had to act as politicians, considering that politics is the art of governing the people.

Escalona: What will happen to the military officers who support the yes-vote if the no-vote wins? Will they go into retirement?

Carvajal: I have read the insolent remarks by Mr Lagos. I was not surprised, because we are used to his remarks. My answer is that we are confident that the democratic sector of the people recognizes the great work of renewal undertaken by the government and the transition toward democracy, which will be implemented as scheduled under the Constitution. Consequently, we are not in the least bothered by the boasting of the Marxists who receive orders from Moscow. These Marxists should recall that, according to PRAVDA, history examinations have been suspended in Soviet schools "until the great guilt of those who have lied to generations, thus embittering their minds and souls has been neutralized." This statement by the Soviet Government has long been understood by Chilean democrats.

Those misled Marxists should be on the alert and should wait to learn about the new history that is being written in the Supreme Soviet. Otherwise, the victory of perestroyka may give them a passing grade in history because their minds and souls are embittered with lies, and they might have to return the arms, explosives, and rubles that they received to destroy Chile!

Escalona: The opposition maintains that the funds that were used for buying weapons could have been used for building more houses, for improving the university budget, or for the allocations for hospitals.

Carvajal: That is demagogic criticism. It is heard not only in Chile but in other countries as well. In our case, such criticism is totally wrong. There are two sources of criticism: The self-styled military scientists, who take the liberty of criticizing the national defense spending, despite the fact that they have not even gone through military service. There is also a group, which includes Christian Democratic Party leaders, who are responsible for illegally withholding funds that the law had earmarked for the Armed Forces in 1964-70. The Christian Democratic finance minister refused to grant the Armed Forces the allocations that were set by the law. This weakened national security, and this critical situation continued during the UP administration, as established in the reports of the Superior Council for National Defense. We will not forget the treatment that this administration gave to national security.

Escalona: This situation belongs to the past. The critical remarks are aimed at the purchase of weapons, tanks, ships, planes....

Carvajal: These sinister, cheap politicians have resorted to childish demogogy to tell naive people how many schools and hospitals could have been built with the funds used for buying ships, tanks, and planes. Those ignorant people are not aware that, wihout its Armed Forces, the Chilean territory would consist of only the 2d through the 10th regions, because the southern territories and the islands would have been seized by neighboring or overseas invaders.

Escalona: So on one is right.[as published]

Carvajal: Both groups are trying to impair our image abroad. Like Vice President Bush has done in the United States, the officials who deliver speeches here in Chile during the military promotion ceremonies should urge the new professionals to be on the alert for the Christian Democrats and the Marxists, because if they assume power they will dismantle the Armed Forces and they will jeopardize national security. [passage omitted]

Escalona: There are also the missing people. The Sebastian Acevedo movement has staged weekly demonstrations. The mother of one of the missing people of Antofagasta has committed suicide. Is it possible to have a transition to

democracy without giving a true answer to those who are waiting to know about their missing relatives, whether they were terrorists, Marxists, or innocent victims?

Carvajal: I believe this is very painful. I have placed myself in the position of those people and I realize that this is very sad. Yet I believe those people have an idealistic opinion of their relatives. They really think their relatives did not actually do anything wrong. I believe that those people died doing what they chose to do. This is deplorable.

I don't mean innocent people did not die, like the innocent people who die daily on the highways. But the majority of the people who died did so in combat.

Escalona: Won't it ever be possible to know what happened?

Carvajal: I believe it is very sad and that it is very difficult to say now what happened in the past. In addition, there is an amnesty for both sides. This amnesty guarantees that those who engaged in terrorist activities or who committed terrorist crimes will not be harassed. But this amnesty also includes those who killed terrorists in combat.

The evil part is that they were trained to do that, just like they are now being educated in violence, as Mireya Baltra or any of the Communists have put it. They are intellectually responsible for any casualties among the people.

Carabineros Chief on Plebiscite, Terrorism

PY1907115988 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 9 Jul 88 p C-3

[By Julio Rojas Gallardo]

[Text] Arica—Carabineros Director General Rodolfo Stange has said here that the plebiscite will not be held before 21 September, but he cannot announce an exact date.

The police chief arrived in this city at about noon yesterday, accompanied by his wife, Liliana Toro de Stange, and General Leoncio Morales, chief of the 1st Carabineros Inspection Zone. His visit was described as "strictly institutional" and he will remain here until tomorrow. Before coming to Arica he toured the Iquique Carabineros units.

Regarding the plebiscite, Gen Stange said that "it will take place during the spring, not before. I cannot give you an exact date because it has to be agreed upon by the commanders of the Armed Forces and forces of order. We are the ones to decide on this and on the candidate, so all I can say is: The plebiscite, which will be a very important social and political event for the country, will take place in the spring."

Speaking of terrorism in Chile, he said that believes terrorism has not intensified, but has become more selective in order to shake up the public. "I would say to date that the terrorist groups have been considerably reduced, and many cases have been solved. Some terrorists are at the disposal of the courts. I am specifically referring to the case of the Carabinero who was murdered some time ago. Those responsible for his murder were arrested and processed. A death sentence was requested for them, and now the military judge must make a decision about it."

He also said that he clearly sees a connection between terrorism and crime. "We have arrested individuals who have confessed to planting bombs for money. I do not know where that money comes from, but it exists."

He also said that, although it is necessary, it is currently impossible to increase the Carabineros troops because of budget limitations.

Independent Group Calls for Consensus Candidate

PY1907173388 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 9 Jul 88 p C-2

[Excerpts] The Independents for Democracy [Independientes por la Democracia] group, which was just created, has called on the Armed Forces for the appointment of a consensus candidate to make possible a civilian-military understanding.

The leader of the group, Orlando Saenz, in his first contact with the press said that if the group does not achieve this objective then "It will define its position regarding the plebiscite with the idea of leading a process to build a modern, moderate, and consensus-based democracy which Chile needs, and demands," in other words by supporting the "No-vote." [passage omitted]

The declaration creating Independents for Democracy was signed by Orlando Saenz, former economic advisor of the Foreign Ministry; Ernesto Barredo, architect; Danko Brncic, winner of the National Science Award; Lily Garafulic, sculptor; Nelson Haddad, businessman; Gustavo Hoecker, biologist of the University of Chile; Enrique Lafourcade, writer; Sergio Larrain Garcia Moreno, former politician and diplomat; Eduardo Latorre, reporter and former director of the University of Chile School of Journalism; Liliana Mahn, political scientist and former director of tourism; Rene Orozco, former member of the University of Chile executive board; Horacio Toro Iturra, Army general, retired, former member of the Government Junta Advisory Committee; Gonzalo Cienfuegos, painter; and Federico Willoughby, reporter and former presidential press secretary. [passage omitted]

The statement released to the press has three points. The first point shows the need to recover the democratic institutions by indicating that the rigidity of an unchanged Constitution, or the idea of changing it completely, will not be useful to the country. The second point proposes to keep and develop the positive work of the government especially the support given to private

initiative, business development, and the concept of a state that favors the development of people, and intermediate organizations. The third point calls for the rectification of the negative aspects of the regime, especially the violation of human rights.

Opposition PDC Leader's House Attacked

PY1907122788 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 11 Jul 88 p C-4

[Text] Yesterday a group of people traveling in cars and on motorcycles attacked the home of Andres Zaldivar, vice president of the Christian Democratic Party and national coordinator of the National Campaign for the No- Vote.

The attackers, most of them young people, carried banners supporting the Yes-Vote. For 15 minutes they stuck pamphlets to the iron railing, broke tiles which adorn the gateway, and broke the intercom and the electricity meter, thus cutting off the supply of electricity to the house.

According to Zaldivar, the demonstrators also threw the sticks on which their banners were mounted at the house.

The politician has filed charges with Carabineros, whom, Zaldivar stressed, promised to look for the demonstrators. He also stated that this is the first time that something like this has happened to him.

Support Expressed

PY1907142488 Santiago LA TERCERA DE LA HORA in Spanish 12 Jul 88 p 6

[Excerpts] Yesterday Christian Democratic Party [PDC] leaders and members of the campaign for the No-Vote expressed their solidarity with Andres Zaldivar, PDC vice president and the campaign's national coordinator. On 17 July supporters of the Yes-Vote grouped in front of Zaldivar's house; held a noisy rally; and damaged parts of the front of the house and garden.

The high-ranking PDC leader told the crowd that the people who attacked his house were those who participated in the meeting organized by the young people at Mapocho Station, and "their violent attitude can be explained because they listened to General Pinochet's diatribe, which was frameworked within the logic of war." [passage omitted]

PDC Under Secretary Jorge Burgos stated yesterday the verbal aggression that Zaldivar suffered demonstrates "a high degree of irrationality."

According to the political leader, "those who say that they are fervent defenders of private property do not demonstrate this fact when it is the property of others."

'Terrorists' Hold Up Bank; Distribute Leaflets

PY1907182288 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 19 Jul 88

[Excerpts] The police have given further details on the hold up of the National Bank by a terrorist group this morning. [passage omitted]

The terrorists took about 1 million pesos. They also robbed some people in the bank. The terrorists then escaped in two vehicles in opposite directions. The police reported that the terrorists used a taxi, and a pickup truck to escape. Upon leaving the bank the terrorists distributed subversive literature. [passage omitted]

Extremist Arrested on Border With Argentina

PY1907172488 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 9 Jul 88 p C-11

[By Daniel Badilla Alegria]

[Text] Los Angeles—An extremist, who was apparently involved in the attack against the Escuela Japon in Santiago, was arrested when he tried to cross the border into Argentina in the Alto Bio Bio area.

According to a police report, the arrest was made by Carabineros personnel from the Fourth Precinct in Bio Bio, which is based at Alto Bio Bio. The extremist was identified as being a musician called Alejandro Daniel Diaz Becerra, 25, who lives at 3062 Pascual Ortega Street, Santiago.

Diaz, who was carrying false identity in the name of Anibal Sotomayor Duran, was arrested when he tried to cross into Argentina. He was also carrying a Famae 6.35 caliber pistol and lots of ammunition. According to the Carabineros report, the extremist was also carrying 35,000 Chilean pesos and 138,000 australes.

Explosives Found Buried in Valdivia

PY1907151988 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 9 Jul 88 p C-6

[By Arturo Villalobos Carrasco]

[Text] An undisclosed amount of explosives have been found buried in the backyard of a Carabineros clinic located in a building on Ramon Picarte Street, which is only a few meters from a gas station and the Carabineros headquarters. The explosives were found after police thoroughly checked the property. The explosives were found buried 80 centimeters below the surface in the backyard. The explosives, a large amount plastic bombs, are about 10 years old.

The Carabineros Special Operations Group, GOPE, arrived yesterday to conduct a further investigation. When the explosives were found the area was sealed off.

Colombia

M-19 May Release Gomez Within 24 Hours

PA1907151388 Paris AFP in Spanish 1419 GMT 19 Jul 88

[Text] Cali, Colombia, 19 Jul (AFP)—A commando unit of the leftist M-19 guerrilla movement has announced in Siloe, south of Cali in western Colombia, that they will release the 69-year-old former conservative presidential candidate Alvaro Gomez Hurtado within the next 24 hours.

The commando unit had hoisted an M-19 flag on a lightpost, and when the flag was brought down by the police, they found a message by the M-19 announcing Gomez Hurtado's release 52 days after his abduction.

It is expected that in Bogota, at 1400 GMT, former Justice Minister Felio Andrade will make a formal announcement on Gomez Hurtado's release. Andrade claims he has received a personal message from M-19 leader Carlos Pizarro Leon-Gomez.

Gomez' Safety Ordered

PA1907171388 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1615 GMT 19 Jul 88

[Text] Bogota, 19 July (DPA)— M-19 Leader Carlos Pizarro Leon-Gomez today ordered the commando that kidnapped former presidential candidate Alvaro Gomez Hurtado to release him within the next 72 hours and to safeguard his life.

FARC Commander Jacobo Arenas read the order issued by Pizarro Leon-Gomez through a direct telephone line that the rebel organization has with the Presidential Palace in Bogota.

In his message addressed to former Social Conservative Minister Felio Andrade Manrique, the M-19 leader called for peace, censured "the friends of war," and reiterated his request for a dialogue of "national salvation."

According to Pizarro Leon-Gomez, the "joy" of Gomez Hurtado's release should not make anyone forget the problem of missing people.

In honoring his "commitment," Pizarro Leon-Gomez ordered the members of the "Palace Heroes" Commando to protect Gomez Hurtado's life "even if it means risking their own."

Pizarro Leon-Gomez also asked the government to provide guarantees for the "summit" meeting that, according to the agreement signed a few days ago in Panama City, will take place on 29 July with the participation of various Colombian political forces.

Senator Defends Dialogue

PA1907231388 Bogota EL SIGLO in Spanish 15 Jul 88 p 3

[Report on interview with former Foreign Minister and Liberal Party Senator Diego Uribe Vargas by columnist Dario Hoyos Hoyos in the "One Minute Notes" column; no date or place given]

[Excerpts] Some people think that although Defense Minister General Rafael Samudio Molina was justifiably shaken by the killing of military officers, including soldiers who were about to conclude their patriotic service to the nation, he went too far in his impromptu talk with reporters in Medellin. For many, Gen Samudio Molina's remarks amounted to a sort of censure of the dialogue that is being held in Panama for the release of Alvaro Gomez Hurtado.

We interviewed former Foreign Minister and Liberal Senator Diego Uribe Vargas on this subject. Uribe said: "Dialogue is a means and an irreplaceable instrument for achieving peace. I regard the developments taking place in Panama to rescue Alvaro Gomez as a prudent and wise step. I think dialogue is always something positive. The alternative would be unleashed violence. It would be the institutionalizaton of a declared and irreversible war. Colombia does not want that. Our country wants peace. It also wants solutions that are friendly and negotiated, and it wants Alvaro Gomez Hurtado —and many other kidnapping victims—to live."

Then how do you interpret Gen Samudio's declaration of war? He said that the country is in a state of war.

"Keep in mind that today's National Defense Ministry used to be called the War Ministry. There is no reason to be surprised. What is happening now is that while a sector in the public administration is interested in something else, in military solutions, the vast majority of Colombians believe in dialogue." [passage omitted]

On another international topic, we asked the former foreign minister what he thought of the situation that has developed between the United States and Nicaragua. He replied: "I think that from the moment the United States failed to comply with the ruling by the International Court of Justice [ICJ], which condemned the United States for attacking Nicaragua and meddling in that country, those relations were definitively hurt, or at least bruised."

"As long as the ICJ's rulings are not respected, and the United States does not comply with the judges' rulings, I think Nicaragua is right." [passage omitted]

General Alvaro Valencia Tovar, retired, said that the defense minister's remarks in Medellin were unrelated to the talks being held in Panama. He was referring to a massacre that took place that day in El Bagre. He added that the previous administration provided the armed rebels with all sorts of facilities without asking for

anything in return, such as surrendering their weapons, for example. On the contrary, the truce served the interests of the guerrillas to the detriment of the state's interests, he said.

Ambassador Voices Approval

PA1907143688 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2300 GMT 19 Jul 88

[Text] Today Major General Jaime Hernandez Lopez, Colombian ambassador to Panama, voiced satisfaction over the announcement that Alvaro Gomez Hurtado, former Colombian conservative presidential candidate, will be released. Regarding the meeting that various Colombian groups held at the apostolic nuncio's office in Panama over the weekend, Hernandez said:

[Begin Hernandez recording] This meeting did not include the Colombian Government. No representative of our government participated in it for reasons that are obvious and well-known to you.

What I wish to add—and in so doing I think I am interpreting the feelings of the Colombian people; that is, of my 30 million compatriots—is that I felt great satisfaction upon learning that Dr Alvaro Gomez Hurtado, an outstanding Colombian patriot and public figure, will be released before 29 July. [end recording]

Ecuador

Febres-Cordero Thanks Castro, Cuban Medical Team

PA2007025988 Havana International Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 19 Jul 88

[Text] On Tuesday, Ecuadoran President Leon Febres-Cordero bid farewell from the Government Palace to the Cuban health team that worked in Ecuador to eradicate the mosquito that transmits dengue disease. Febres-Cordero told the Cuban brigade members that the Ecuadoran Government and people will be eternally grateful for the efficient aid they rendered in difficult moments, which is an indication of true Latin American brotherhood.

The Ecuadoran president asked the Cuban team to relay to President Fidel Castro Ecuador's deep gratitude for his generosity in heeding the request, which has earned for Cuba the eternal gratitude and love of all Ecuadoreans.

The Cuban team included 8 doctors and 94 technicians, who worked for 2 months in Guayaquil—Ecaudor's largest city—and other towns along the Pacific Coast where earlier this year over 300,000 persons were affected by the virus transmitted by the aedes egypti mosquito.

Peru

Contract Signed for Gas Pipeline Construction

PY1907224288 Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 19 Jul 88

[Excerpts] Yesterday in a ceremony presided over by President Alan Garcia Perez, a representative of the Peruvian Government signed a contract for the implementation of the Aguaytia Gas Project. The project foresees the construction of pipe lines in Pucalpa, which will be financed and constructed by Pemex.

[Begin Garcia recording] At the conclusion of this contract, it will be possible to construct pipe lines and [word indistinct] that will allow us to make use of this wealth of the Callani Region.

(?The basis of this project is the generous and broad relations that links) us with the Mexican Government and people (?who) will implement this great project. [Word indistinct] and (?yearning) of the people of Pucalpa and of the Callani Department which will soon be the Callani Region, as we have proposed through our regionalization program. [passage omitted]

This project will be the most reinvigorating push the Callani Department has ever had, and it will also be a reinvigorating push for the hard-working people of Pucalpa. [end recording]

Police Arrest 234 Demonstrators in Lima

PY1907215988 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2106 GMT 19 Jul 88

[Text] Lima, 19 Jul (EFE)—Today police in Lima arrested 234 people who were attempting to block traffic here during the 1st day of the national strike organized by the Communist Central Labor Organization [Central Obrera Comunista, COC].

The 48-hour strike was organized to protest the APRA regime's socioeconomic policy.

Lima is being patrolled by police and Army forces that have been deployed throughout the country. Members of the Navy have also been deployed in some areas.

According to the people responsible for this strike, between 80 and 90 percent of the workers in Lima observed the measure. However, government sources have said that the situation is almost normal and that most workers showed up for work.

Hernan Chang, secretary general of the Peruvian Federation of Drivers, has also said that only 22 percent of the public transport fleet is operating because they have not been given sufficient guarantees [sentence as received]. He said that rebel groups have tried to take over and set some public transport units on fire.

Municipal public transport service vehicles are the only ones working, but none carried many passangers. In some of the most populated areas of Lima, municipal buses circulating around urged those workers going to work to board them.

Since early this morning, in other parts of Lima, lines of strikers tried to block city streets by building barricades with stones, tree trunks, and burning tires. They also threw stones at passing vehicles.

The strikes in Lima and other provinces were not fully observed; however, certain unions, such as the bankers, teachers, public servants, social security, and others observed the measure to a large extent.

Some market places and bakeries remained closed. Fish supply in Lima was cut by half and the national transport service throughout the country was suspended.

This is the third national strike President Alan Garcia's government has faced during its 3-year tenure. All labor unions have supported the strike, even a faction of the General Workers Confederation, which follows the APRA. This union is currently divided.

In Lima provinces especially, demonstrations are being staged in support of the strike. According to the COC, some 6 million workers have observed the measure. It was also noted that some mining sectors have also joined the strike.

Alledged MRTA 'Terrorists' Attack Guard Post

PY1907233388 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 1800 GMT 19 Jul 88

[Text] A terrorist command last night attacked a Republican Guard Detachment in charge of guarding (Endepalma) installations, in Tocache, San Martin Department.

Corporal Jorge Ludena Condori, a radio operator, died in the confrontation. Noncommissioned Officer Francisco Cinti Taranta was seriously wounded and was taken to the Tingo Maria hospital. Before dying, Ludena Condori destroyed the radio equipment to prevent it from being seized by the terrorists.

A source told this station that the guards entrenched themselves in the woods to repel the attack. The terrorists took advantage of this situtation to ransack the detachment building and take materiel stored there. The source also said that the terrorists took the wives and children as hostages, and mistreated them. They were forced to release them, however, due to the decisive action of the guards.

The source added that some 300 terrorists attacked the detachment.

Uruguay

Sanguinetti Speaks on Constitution Day

PY1907122288 Montevideo Radio Carve Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 19 Jul 88

[Excerpts] Uruguayan President Julio Maria Sanguinetti has said that the government will not back down on the defense of the Constitution, or on ensuring peace against any type of threat.

Dr Julio Maria Sanguinetti said that disturbances must be controlled by the law and not with repression because, if it is done this way, legal force, political authority, and moral power would be lost.

In a message delivered during the main ceremony on the anniversary of the signing of the Constitution, the head of the state said that we must close ranks against dogmatic intransigence, but always within the Constitution.

Before the military parade along our main avenue, Dr Sanguinetti, who was accompanied by his ministers, legislators, and other national authorities, spoke from a rostrum in the Plaza Independencia.

[Begin Sanguinetti recording] With sacrifice, with our quiet daily heroism, we Uruguayans have successively fought the battles necessary to maintain the brilliance of our Constitution. We have achieved this despite a constant threat from the minorities that do not believe in a democratic country because of their indifference, which stems from their materialism. [passage omitted]

We are slowly revamping our economy, which had failed. We are doing this, despite the constant instability that affects us from beyond our borders. It is essential to remember that we are doing this with a strong sense of social solidarity. [end recording]

During his speech, the head of state also said:

[Begin Sanguinetti recording] This economic and social task is being conducted within an atmosphere of liberty. Obviously, this also permits tensions and claims to surface, both the just and legitimate claims and the unjust and illegitimate ones; claims that are correctly made, using authentic democratic procedures, and claims that resort to demagoguery and immoderate behavior. This ample atmosphere of liberty accommodates all the great democratic majorities in the country, and also for the antidemocratic minorities. [passage omitted]

Criticism, protests, and even unjust reproach will continue to be respecfully received.

Zealous attempts to violently achieve goals through disturbances, goals that the people have systematically rejected, will also continue to be heard with all the patience established by the law and with the calmness that results from its compliance.

Abiding by the Constitution is everything, living outside the Constitution is nothing. This slogan summarizes the government's belief. [applause]

Let us control disturbances with the law and not with repression because, in this way, we would first lose the ability to use legal force, then we would lose political authority, and finally we would lose moral power. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Defense Minister on Speech

PY1907203088 Montevideo Radio El Espectador in Spanish 0935 GMT 19 Jul 88

[Text] During the ceremony held to commemorate the 158th anniversary of Constitution Day, Defense Minister Hugo Medina made the following remarks: I did not think that the president of the Republic was threatening the country over the current situation. In any case everyone, if free, can draw what conclusions they please.

Lieutenant General Hugo Medina, retired, said, however, that President Julio Maria Sanguinetti merely summed up the beliefs of the Uruguayan people.

Regarding the review of the budget, Medina added that the Armed Forces are satisfied with it because no one can expect any more. [recorded passage indistinct]

Grenadier Guardsmen Repress Demonstration

PY1907181088 Montevideo Radio El Espectador in Spanish 0935 GMT 19 Jul 88

[Text] It has been reported that during yesterday's ceremonies [to commemorate Constitution Day] Grenadier guardsmen repressed a demonstration staged by approximately 100 people in Casero Leandro, Montevideo.

According to a report obtained by Radio El Espectador, the incident took place in front of the monument to the gaucho. Two youths were arrested by policemen and plainclothes agents who violently pushed them into a police vehicle. Witnesses said that one of them was injured.

It was also reported that 13 journalists were attacked by Grenadier guardsmen.

Meanwhile, Agriculture School students who attended the demonstration have said that some 10 people were arrested.

Suriname

President Shankar Visits Defense Ministry

FL1907182088 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 19 Jul 88

[Text] The national Army will do everything to accomplish a good understanding with the police and civilians. This was stated by Chief of Staff of the National Army Ivan Graanoogst during a visit by President Shankar to the Ministry of Defense. During last Friday's visit, the president exchanged thoughts with Defense Minister Sheik Kariem and representatives of the military leadership under special tasks of the national Army and the development army. The protection of all territorial waters and a secondary [words indistinct] in the Army have also been discussed during the president's visit to the minister.

No Agreement Reached on Bauxite Companies

FL1907180288 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 19 Jul 88

[Text] The National Assembly has not yet been able to permit the government to sign an industrial agreement with the bauxite companies which are operating in Suriname. After 7 hours of questions, the meeting was adjourned until next Monday.

The most important point of disagreement is the special exchange rate which is asked by the bauxite companies from the Suriname Government. Instead of 1.77 guilders for a U.S. dollar, the bauxite companies want 3.10 guilders. The companies will then invest $150 million during 5 years to bring new mines into production.

The Assembly members wondered if the government is handling the matter according to the Constitution because the State Council should give its side in this matter. This organ has, however, not yet been installed.

Next Monday, the ministers of natural resources and energy, and finance will reply to questions and criticisms by the people's representatives. Both ministers will have to consult with the bauxite companies to be able to answers the questions.

Netherlands Development Minister To Arrive

FL1507183488 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT Jul 88

[Text] Vice President Henck Arron and the Dutch ambassador to Suriname, Johan Hoekman, have agreed to (?set up) a good foundation to proceed with the talks which had started in May on development relations between Suriname and Holland. [Words indistinct] clear during intensive discussions held over the last few days between the vice president and the Dutch ambassador.

Government spokesman (Hank Edderman) yesterday announced that the Dutch minister for development cooperation, Piet Bukman, will arrive here next week Tuesday. Bukman will negotiate with the Surinamese team comprising Vice President Henck Arron, Foreign Minister Edwin Sedoc, and Finance Minister Soebhas Mungra.